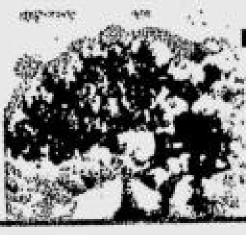
■ Business / B1

Ad valorem tax on 'sin' products bucked

■ World / A8

Thai bird flu case fans human link fear



■ Metro / A19

Special food lanes for veggie trucks

■ Across / A15

3 RP women enslaved in Sabah return

■ Entertainment / A28

OMB not anti-Muslim, says Edu

Early gov't retirement plan backed, whacked

By Christine O. Avendaño and Cynthia D. Balana

TWO SENATORS are supporting a proposed P30-billion early retirement program for government employees, but the head of a militant government workers' group is denouncing the plan as "early retrenchment."

EARLY/ A17

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

DepEd blinks, to correct errors in history book

By Dona Pazzibugan and Cynthia D. Balana

THEY will review, but will not recall.

Education officials had a change of heart yesterday and promised to cor-

DEPED/ A17

PATI YUNG MGA MALING NATUTUNAN AY DI NA RIN MABABAWI!

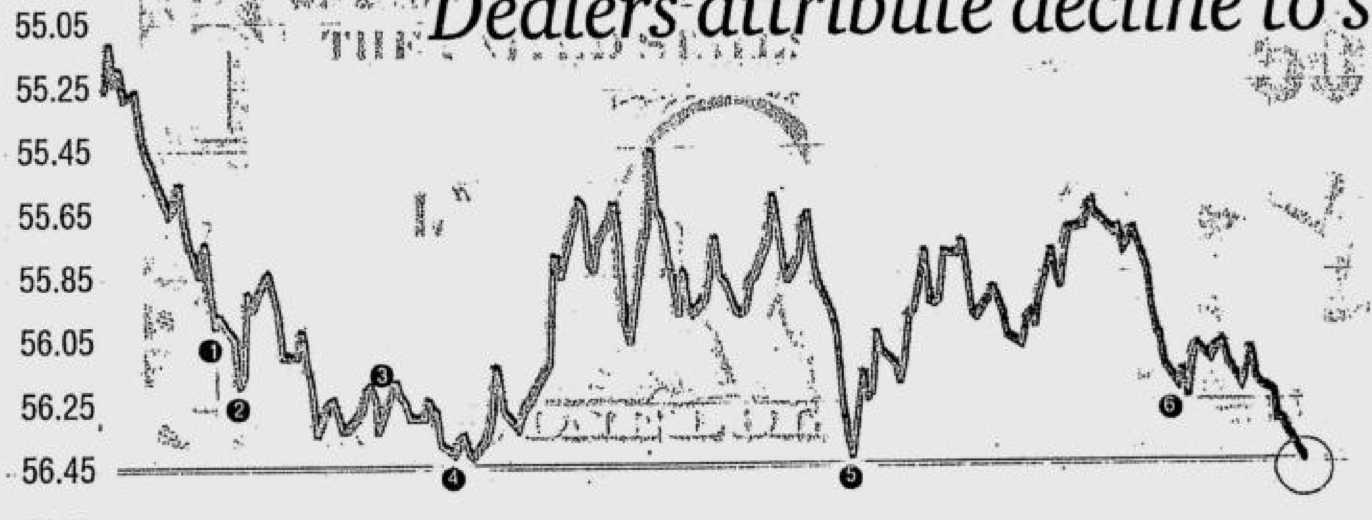
email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Tuesday, September 28, 2004 ★★★ 48 pages / 4 sections / vol. 19 / no. 293 P18

website: www.inq7.net

All-time low: ₱56.45-$1

Dealers attribute decline to skyrocketing oil prices



(1) Jan. 29 = P56.01
Peso falls due to new destabilization threats against the Arroyo administration

(2) Feb. 3 = P56.20
Peso is the biggest loser among Asian currencies as worries over economic and political uncertainties remain

(3) March 4 = P56.235
Peso weakens the day after the Supreme Court throws out the petition seeking to disqualify Fernando Poe Jr. from the presidential race

(4) March 22 = P56.42
Peso stumbles due to low dollar supply and concerns over balance of payments

(5) June 18 = P56.43
Peso plunges due to very slow canvassing of presidential and vice presidential votes

(6) Aug. 30 = P56.21
Peso continues to slide despite news of a 6.2-percent growth in gross domestic product

By Doris C. Dumlao and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PESO slid back yesterday to its historic low of 56.45 to the dollar on heavy corporate demand, pressure from skyrocketing oil prices and soft regional currency markets. It had closed at P56.38 on Friday.

The last time the peso hit the 56.45 level was on March 22 due largely to concerns on dwindling foreign exchange reserves of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. But it closed at 56.42.

Citigroup, the leading American financial services firm, expects the peso to weaken to 56.75 against the dollar by next month. It expects the peso to plunge to 57.50 by March and to 57.80 by September next year.

In its economic and market analysis of Asia Pacific economies dated Sept. 23, Citigroup attributed its negative outlook for the peso-dollar rate to the ballooning trade deficit and to the "moderated outlook" for the country's dominant export—electronics.

"Trade deficit for the seven months to July of $1.51 billion has exceeded our full-year expectation of a deficit of $837 million," Citigroup said. "Declining electronic imports tracked a disappointing 3.2 percent year-on-year in electronic exports as the global electronic outlook is moderated."

After hitting 56.75 by next month, Citigroup expects the peso to strengthen to 56 to the dollar in the fourth quarter because of remittances from overseas Filipino workers.

ALL-TIME/ A18

NPA hand seen in killing of ex-rebel

By Christian V. Esguerra and Juliet Labog-Javellana

IT BORE the stamp of what communist rebels call "revolutionary justice."

The gun that felled breakaway leftist leader Arturo Tabara in a Quezon City parking lot was similar to those used in the killing of two other former senior rebels, and the assassination was carried out with the same deadly smoothness.

These were the initial findings of police looking into Tabara's murder and Malacañang itself said yesterday the slain leader of the Rebolusyonaryong Partidong Manggagawa-Pilipinas might have been shot by his former comrades.

Communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal himself hinted that New People's Army guerrillas might have been behind the killing.

The Sunday evening slaying of Tabara and his companion, Stephen Ong, occurred at a time leaders of the National Democratic Front were pressing for the removal of the NDF, as well as the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army, from Washington's list of foreign terrorist organizations.

Rosal told the INQUIRER that an NPA unit had long been looking for Tabara to arrest him and bring him before a "people's court" for trial, and that the unit could have approached Tabara to serve him the summons.

"But instead of submitting peacefully, he opted to fight to resist arrest," Rosal said. "The NPA unit could have just defended themselves. That's one possible scenario. I don't know. I'm still awaiting reports from the leaders of the NPA."

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the Philippine National Police was exhausting all means to solve the case, as well as previous cases involving the killing of former rebel leaders.

"The cases may be the result of internal conflicts within the revolutionary left, but nevertheless they are a travesty of justice," Bunye said.

He said measures were being taken to ensure the safety of former rebels "who have returned to the fold [of the law]."

NPA HAND/ A6

PDI PHOTO

TABARA could have resisted NPA "arrest," according to CPP spokesperson Gregorio Rosal.

Enrile favors amnesty for mutineers

By Christine O. Avendaño and TJ Burgonio

TAKE it from a man accused of plotting against two presidents.

Opposition Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday backed the granting of amnesty to rebel soldiers involved in last year's Oakwood mutiny, rejecting arguments that clemency for the mutineers would only encourage military adventurism.

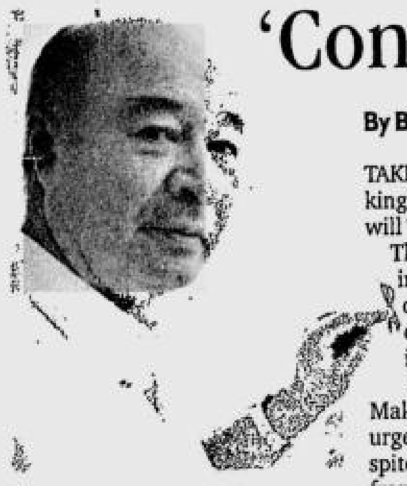
"The best antidote to military adventurism is good governance," Enrile told reporters.

"Retributive justice is good if your society is clean and governance is also good," he said. "But when society is not well-ordered and the governance is inadequate, I think to exact retributive justice is counter-productive."

Enrile first challenged the fates in 1986 when then President Ferdinand Marcos accused him and the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM) of plotting against his regime. His breakaway from Marcos helped ignite the "people power" revolt that ousted the dictator.

ENRILE/ A6

'Condom king' undaunted by Church stand



MECHAI: UNAIDS ambassador.

RAFFY LERMA

By Blanche S. Rivera

TAKE it from Thailand's "condom king": this contraceptive device will "help Filipinos stay alive."

Thai Sen. Mechai Viravaidya is in town to promote the advocacy which turned around his country's alarming HIV-AIDS infection rate.

Speaking at a forum in Makati City yesterday, Mechai urged Filipinos to use condoms in spite of directions to the contrary from the conservative Catholic Church.

"Any real church ... will back up what I'm doing because I'm trying to save lives," Mechai said.

In the almost three decades that he had been promoting the use of condoms, Mechai claimed, not one religious group had tried to stop him, or declared that he was on the wrong track.

The Catholic Church in the Philippines strongly lobbies against the use of artificial contraceptives, and maintains that condoms do not really offer effective protection from sexually transmitted diseases.

Mechai obviously knew this, but was undaunted. "I'll fight any religion that tries to stop me ... I respect all religions as long as they are not silly on some points," he said, eliciting laughter from his audience.

The Thai official was in charge of tourism, sports, information and AIDS prevention under the Prime Minister's Office in 1991-92. He founded the Population and Community Development Association based in Bangkok, and was ambassador to UNAIDS (joint United Nations program on HIV-AIDS).

He was brought to Manila by UNAIDS, the AIDS Society of the Philippines, Path Foundation and Global Fund-AIDS, Pilipinas.

In his country, he is famous for giving away condoms wherever he goes—restaurants, public transport, schools, government offices, gas stations, night clubs and rural villages.

"The Philippines doesn't think it has larger (HIV-AIDS) numbers than Thailand, and that may be true," Mechai said. "But how far

CONDOM / A17

Indons make most of porous RP border

GLAN, South Cotabato—From behind a pair of binoculars that has seen better days, Amancio Wagwag searches the sea for intruders.

For the next 12 hours, the 30-year-old skipper of a Philippine Coast Guard gunboat will play a dangerous game of cat-and-mouse with hundreds of boats shuttling between the southernmost part of Mindanao and North Sulawesi in eastern Indonesia.

But if a fruitless first three months on the job are anything to go by, his chances of making an arrest are slim.

"This is a very lonely and difficult job," Wagwag told a guest on his small, noisy boat, loaded with two machine guns and three other crew members.

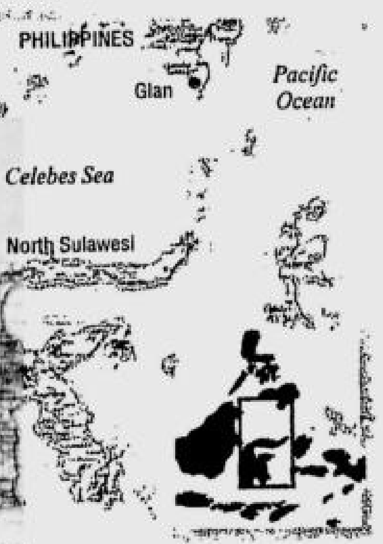
"We only have one gunboat patrolling a 160-km-long coastline and our old boat is no match for high-speed outriggers carrying contraband, including illegal migrants, from Indonesia," he said.

Complicating the situation are the thou-

INDONS/ A17

A PHILIPPINE Coast Guard officer searches the sea off Glan, South Cotabato, for foreign intruders amid reports of Jemaah Islamiyah operatives secretly entering Mindanao for training.

REUTERS



MAP shows area of border patrol operations in the sea separating Mindanao and North Sulawesi.

INQGRAPHIC: E SAMBO

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Visayas and Mindano including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/28/04

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Graft raps filed vs GSIS chief

By Cynthia D. Balana
and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A PARTY-LIST congressman yesterday led Government Service Insurance System union officials and pension fund owners represented by Courage, a non-governmental organization, in filing graft charges against GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia in the Office of the Ombudsman.

At the same time, Rep. Crispin Beltran (party-list, Anakpawis) filed House Resolution No. 286 calling for a congressional investigation into alleged unfair labor practices by Garcia against the GSIS union.

The graft raps against Garcia were for unliquidated cash advances totaling P5.25 million, the purchase by the GSIS of paintings amounting to tens of millions of pesos, and the P1-billion agreement with Union Bank for an "e-Card" project that is being opposed by retirees and pensioners who have difficulty using automatic teller machines.

Beltran said the latter deal was being questioned by Courage and allied people's organizations because Union Bank is controlled by the Aboitiz Group which allegedly had business links to Garcia.

The law provides that the money of trust funds like the GSIS should be placed only in government depository banks such as Landbank and Development Bank of the Philippines.

GSIS
GM Garcia
ALIS DYAN!

MEMBERS of different militant groups demand ouster of GSIS Chief Winston Garcia in a press conference Monday.
JOAN BONDOC

Beltran said that aside from mismanaging the GSIS and "swindling" millions of state employees of their rightful benefits, Garcia was a "notorious violator" of employees' rights.

He said Garcia had issued a board resolution slashing the salaries of rank-and-file employees by 10 percent purportedly as the GSIS' contribution to the national government's efforts to stem the fiscal crisis.

For his part, Garcia branded the complaint filed against him by Beltran et al. as "utterly false, baseless and malicious."

In a statement issued yesterday, Garcia said the complaint was part of a "vicious plot" by "interested parties" to oust him "because of my constructive policies and unrelenting determination to fully protect and promote the interests of the 1.5 million GSIS members by stopping illegal and immoral practices that deprive the GSIS of legitimate revenues."

Garcia said he welcomed the probe because, "I will definitely expose the evil motives of those who filed the complaint. I will also show that under my administration, the GSIS has been able to strongly improve its assets and financial standing, enabling it to fully respond to the needs of its member-contributors, including the government."

Beltran said none of the complaints against Garcia before the Ombudsman and the Civil Service Commission had prospered because the latter "enjoys the protection of Malacañang."

But the Palace has left it to the Department of Finance to decide whether or not to keep Garcia.

In a TV interview, President Macapagal-Arroyo said: "I told him (Garcia) not to explain to me but to the Filipino people. Let us wait who the public will believe in this issue."

The President said she would not intervene because, "I am the appointive authority and I want to wait for his explanation because I don't want the other side to use the ongoing review of GSIS and GOCCs (government-owned and -controlled corporations) as a form of harassment of those that do not get contracts."

The President was apparently referring to Garcia's riposte that one of the reasons he was being attacked was that he had denied a request for a reinsurance contract from a congressman.

In a radio interview, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said, "The GSIS is under the DOF [which] is currently reviewing the management and operations of all government financial institutions. We don't want to jump the gun on its review."

The DOF, however, refused to comment on the issue.

Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong is on a two-week road show abroad to brief foreign investors on the Philippine economy.

Finance Undersecretary Nieves Osorio, who is officer in charge in Amatong's absence, said she did not want to comment on the matter until she had received a formal order from Malacañang telling the DOF to decide Garcia's fate. *With Mitch Remo*

Winston get ₱2.1-M GSIS loan in hours

By Norman Bordadora

WE SHOULD all be so lucky.

A party-list group yesterday scored Government Service Insurance System president and general manager Winston Garcia for securing a P2.1-million loan on the same day (June 23) that he filed his application, at a time many fund members were getting their salary loans in two weeks at the earliest.

"I could have gotten it in four hours just like all the other GSIS members whose records and premium payments were in order," Garcia retorted.

Garcia said the computerization of the GSIS had made it so efficient that it could comply with President Macapagal-Arroyo's directive to process salary loans in as quickly as four hours and retirement and other claims in eight hours.

"If the members don't get their loans as fast, it must be that they have yet to update their premium payments or the government agencies they belong to had failed to remit their payments," Garcia said.

And what did he do with the money he borrowed? Garcia admitted he bought a Volvo.

Gov't still has to recover ₱2.9B invested in Smokey project, says Miriam

By Michael Lim Ubac

SEN. MIRIAM Defensor-Santiago yesterday said that the government still had not recovered from the P2.9-billion liabilities of the Smokey Mountain Development and Reclamation Project (SMDRP).

Santiago explained that the P2.9-billion investments of the Social Security System, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Pag-Ibig Fund, Home Guaranty Corp., Government Service Insurance System, Landbank and the Philippine National Bank had not been recovered five years after they matured.

"The national government assumed these liabilities, including interest for 10 years," she said. "R-II Builders 'illegally' sold most of the 79 hectares of reclaimed land for P13.2 billion but failed to redeem the debt instruments it sold through the Smokey Mountain Asset Pool."

Santiago hit back at former Internal Revenue Commissioner Liwayway Vinzons-Chato, legal counsel and spokesperson of R-II Builders, for claiming that there was nothing irregular in the project because the reclaimed lands were still in the name of the National Housing Authority (NHA).

"That is only half the truth," she said, "the fact is the titles were eventually transferred to R-II Builders, which was granted the exclusive right to sell the lands under the Smokey Mountain Asset Pool agreement."

And while it was true that R-II Builders had infused some funds, "the funds infused by government financial institutions were nearly three times what R-II Builders had put in," she added.

Santiago also pointed out that the earnings of the Social Security System appear "on paper only because the certificates bought by the GFIs have not been redeemed until now."

She explained that under the termination agreement signed last year by the NHA and R-II Builders, the Home Guaranty Insurance Corp. agreed to pay the certificates and accrued interest, which could total up to P5 billion already.

MCLE SEMINAR FOR LAWYERS

4th 2004 MCLE Lecture Series - October 2, 9, 16 & 23, 2004

[Credit units earned may still be credited to the first compliance period]

Bar Matter No. 850 and its implementing rules provide, among others, that failure to comply with the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) 36-unit requirement at the end of the compliance period shall be a cause for listing a lawyer as a delinquent member and consequently, he shall not be permitted to practice law. To afford lawyers the opportunity to fully comply with the MCLE requirement, we are sponsoring the following Lecture Series:

REGISTRATION FORM

Please check your chosen session	AM/PM Session	Date	Subject Classification/Time and MCLE Credit Units (CU)	Lecturer
	AM Session	Oct. 2, 2004 Sat.	Oral Advocacy - 8-10 am (2CU)	Justice Magdangal M. De Leon
			International Law - 10:15 am - 12:15 pm (2CU)	Atty. Ronaldo P. Ledesma
	PM Session		Updates in Remedial Law - 1-3 pm (2CU)	Dean Ed Vincent S. Albano
			Updates in Constitutional & Election Laws - 3:15 pm - 6:15 pm (3CU)	Justice Regalado E. Maambong
	AM Session	Oct. 9, 2004 Sat.	Updates in Criminal Law - 8-10 am (2CU)	Justice Diosdado M. Peralta
			Pre-Trial Skills - 10:15 am - 12:15 pm (2CU)	Justice Noel G. Tijam
	PM Session		Trial Technique - 1-3 pm (2CU)	Justice Edilberto G. Sandoval
			International & Domestic Arbitration - 3:15 pm - 6:15 pm (3CU)	Dean Custodio O. Parlade
	AM Session	Oct. 16, 2004 Sat.	Arbitration Law & Agreements - 8-10 am (2CU)	Prof. Mario E. Valderrama
			MCLE-Prescribed: Rules on Electronic Evidence - 10:15 am - 12:15 pm (2CU)	Atty. Ivan John E. Uy
	PM Session		Updates in Legal Ethics - 1-4 pm (3CU)	Justice Hector L. Hofileña
			Updates in Labor Law - 4:15 pm - 6:15 pm (2CU)	Dean Froilan M. Bacungan
	AM Session	Oct. 23, 2004 Sat.	Legal Writing - 8-10 am (2CU)	Justice Hugo E. Gutierrez, Jr.
			MCLE-Prescribed: Law & Economics - 10:15 am - 12:15 pm (2CU)	Prof. Harry L. Roque, Jr.
	PM Session		Problem Areas in Legal Ethics - 1-4 pm (3CU)	Justice Ruben T. Reyes
			MCLE-Prescribed: Essentials of Forensic Ballistic, Questioned Documents & Fingerprinting - 4:15 pm - 6:15 pm (2CU)	Justice Regalado E. Maambong

Yes, I want to attend the: ___entire 36 credit unit session; ___ per half day session.
Name of Participant: ____________________ Roll No.: ________
(Please PRINT) (Last Name) (First Name) (M. I.)
Company/Firm: ____________________ IBP Chapter: ________
Address: ____________________ Tel. #: ________
Signature of Participant: ____________________ Fax #: ________

→ TO REGISTER, fax this registration form to 634-0736, or REGISTER ON-LINE at www.chanrobleslawnet.com

Date/Day/Time: October 2, 9, 16 & 23, 2004, Saturdays, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:15 p.m.
Venue: Ballrooms I & II, Valle Verde Country Club (*beside PSC Complex [formerly ULTRA]*)
Capt. Henry Javier Street, Bo. Ugong, Pasig City, Metro Manila
Inclusions: Meals (morning or afternoon snacks for half day sessions plus lunch for whole day sessions), Hand-outs, Certificate of Attendance & Certificate of Appreciation, Seminar Bag/Kit, FREE PARKING, Free Notarization of the Attorney's Compliance Report and Submission thereof to the MCLE Office.

Sponsored by: ChanRobles LawNet, Inc. *(A Supreme Court-Accredited MCLE Provider)*
Suite 2205-B, 22/F, Tektite East Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Centre
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel. Nos.: (632) 634-07-41 to 45 *Fax No.:* (632) 634-07-36
E-Mail: lmsp@chanrobles.com *Website:* www.chanrobleslawnet.com
Contact Person: Atty. Lea Marie Sumanga Picar, *Executive Director*

GMA tells customs chief: Go get the big smugglers

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

A NEW anti-smuggling czar is born.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered Customs Commissioner George Jereos to draw up a list of the country's top smugglers and gave him "broad powers" so he could wage an intensified war against smuggling.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the President told the Bureau of Customs to step up its campaign against smuggling, one of the weak areas in the government's revenue collection.

The government is battling to overcome a projected P200-billion budget deficit, prompting the President to ask for eight new taxes and to whip various agencies to shape up or save additional revenues.

"The President wants Customs to really go at it (smuggling) hammer and tongs. She wants the commissioner to prepare an OB (order of battle) against smugglers similar to the OB for kidnappers and drug lords," Bunye said.

"The idea is to identify these alleged smugglers and to come up with an action plan to bring them to justice," he said.

Jereos recently submitted to the President a list of 112 people charged with various violations of customs laws. None of the more prominent personalities linked to big-time smuggling in the country was on the list.

As the President assessed the performance of all tax collectors in a command conference in Malacañang yesterday afternoon, she issued Executive Order 363 giving the customs commissioner the powers of the defunct Economic Intelligence and Investigation Bureau (EIIB).

This would give him Jereos "almost complete powers" against smuggling, not just limited to the customs area.

The EIIB was previously empowered to combat smuggling but it was abolished during the Estrada administration.

Ms Arroyo did not revive the EIIB but vested Jereos with its powers.

As the new anti-smuggling czar, Jereos can:

- Prepare and implement appropriate and effective measures to prevent and suppress all forms of smuggling especially rice, sugar, vegetables, vehicles, alcohol and dangerous drugs;
- Effect searches, seizures and arrests on smuggling cases or apply for a judicial warrant as may be necessary.
- Investigate, file and prosecute criminal, civil and administrative cases against smugglers.
- Enlist the assistance of any department, bureau, office, agency or instrumentality of the government, including government-owned or -controlled corporations to carry out its personnel, facilities and resources.
- And perform such other functions and carry out activities as may be directed by the President.

Criminal Cases Filed by the Bureau of Customs before Department of Justice

PRESIDENT Arroyo receives a copy of the criminal cases filed by the Bureau of Customs from the new anti-smuggling czar, Customs Commissioner George Jereos, during the Customs Command conference at Malacañang Palace Monday.
VAL HANDUMON

'WORST-CASE SCENARIO'

Evacuation of 4,000 Pinoys in Iraq ruled out

By TJ Burgonio

ACTING Foreign Secretary Jose Brillantes yesterday allayed growing fears for the safety of the 4,000 Filipinos working in Iraq, saying the volatile situation in the war-torn state did not necessitate their evacuation just yet.

Brillantes, the current undersecretary for migrant workers affairs, ruled out the possibility the stepped-up attacks by Iraqi insurgents against the US-led international coalition would degenerate into civil war.

"Evacuation is a worst-case scenario. This is very remote. We just have to be ready for all eventualities," Brillantes told reporters in a chance interview.

"How can there be civil war when the US forces are there?" he added.

United States officials had predicted that Iraqi insurgents would step up their attacks in the run-up to the Australian elections next month, the US presidential elections in November and the Iraqi elections in January next year.

The accelerated hostilities had worried Philippine officials, prompting them to advise the embassy staff in Baghdad to restrict their movements and to update contingency measures for the Filipino workers.

Brillantes, however, said the government was prepared to repatriate any of the 4,000 Filipinos working in two US military camps—Anaconda and Victory—if a request was made.

"In situations like this, (repatriation) comes to mind until things die down," he said, recalling that several months ago, some 600 workers had asked to be repatriated but only 200 eventually decided to come home.

Ambassador Roy Cimatu, special envoy to the Middle East, was set to depart for Iraq to visit the two camps and assess the situation there in the face of the accelerated hostilities in the past few days.

"Cimatu should be on the way to Iraq to make a fresh personal assessment of the situation," Brillantes said.

"At this time, [Charge d'Affaires in Baghdad] Ricardo Endaya is probably making his own assessment and is getting in touch with as many Filipinos as he can. He has the list of all [the Filipinos] in Iraq," he said.

In view of the heightened alert, the embassy has embarked on a massive campaign to inform the Filipino workers to be prepared for "any eventuality" and to take safety precautions even while inside the camps.

"They will know what to do depending on the alert," Brillantes said.

The foreign affairs department is also preparing safety manuals for distribution to the workers there, he said.

US unfazed by GMA China trip

By TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to make her first visit to China after the May presidential elections did not worry the US government at all, US Embassy Charge d'Affaires Joseph Mussomeli said.

The President's three-day state visit to China early this month had been viewed as a posturing by the Philippines which had been roundly criticized by the United States for withdrawing its token humanitarian contingent in Iraq in July.

Manila pulled out its contingent to meet the demand of Iraqi militants who snatched and threatened to behead Filipino truck driver Angelo dela Cruz.

Mussomeli, who toured a museum in Cavite on Saturday along with some members of the embassy staff, said that the US government felt "it was good" for Ms Arroyo to visit one of its "important neighbors" in Asia.

"China is an important country in this region, and it would really be narrow-minded or shortsighted for either the Philippines or the [US] to not want that sort of interplay between the countries," he said in an interview after the tour.

Mussomeli, who arrived in Manila more than a week ago, said it was crucial for any country to hold talks with its "next-door neighbors" and thresh out any dispute brought about by their geographic closeness.

"There's always friction if you're too close to each other. It's important to talk; it's important to visit and to work out these problems," he said. "Yeah, it's a good thing. We don't worry about it."

The Philippines and China, along with Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam and Taiwan, are laying claims to the Spratly islands off South China Sea, which are believed to be sitting on vast oil and gas reserves.

In a bid to turn it into an "area of cooperation," Manila and Beijing hammered out an agreement to mount a three-year, $7-million seismic survey around the Spratlys for potential oil and gas reserves during the state visit.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo had repeatedly defended the visit, saying that Ms Arroyo recognizes the determining influence of China, together with the US and Japan, on the country's security and economic situation.

This recognition, he said, was part of the President's foreign policy.

Echoing assurances by Washington officials, Mussomeli said that the two countries remain "close allies" despite their "serious disagreement" over the troops' pullout from Baghdad.

"Things really aren't bad now. Even close allies, even close friends disagree on some things. And I don't want to say it wasn't a serious disagreement, it was. Even if I have disagreements with my wife, with God, we don't turn our backs on each other," he said.

Our salvation lies 'neath our feet–JDV

By Carlito Pablo

THE COUNTRY'S salvation from its enormous debt could be found in what lies beneath—the country's untapped mineral resources.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. pointed this out as he called for the revival of the mining industry in line with his proposed 12-point program to "create new wealth."

"The country's mineral wealth is estimated between $800 billion to $1 trillion, as against the current Philippine external debt of $57 billion," he said.

The development of the mining industry has been hampered by lack of capital, a situation significantly attributed to the current constitutional limitations on foreign equity participation in such fields as mineral development.

"A policy decision to rebuild the industry would open its enormous economic potential, employ thousands of people and create the beginnings of a tiger economy for the country," De Venecia said.

He added that countries like the United States, Canada, Australia and China could become "major players in the revived Philippine mining industry."

As part of this mining initiative, De Venecia said international and local investors could be mobilized to develop the "enormous underground wealth" at Mt. Diwalwal in Davao.

"International mining companies can develop the area and employ thousands of miners currently operating there, who might be given the additional incentive of partnership or profit-sharing arrangements," he said.

The revival of the mining industry top-billed the 12-point program submitted by De Venecia to President Macapagal-Arroyo in a letter dated Sept. 23, 2004.

"It seeks to build an economic superstructure to sustain the continuing gains from Your Excellency's 10-point program," De Venecia told President Macapagal.

The other components of the De Venecia plan are:

- Development of more oil and gas wells like the Malampaya oil and gas field in offshore Palawan;
- The launch of massive reclamation projects for auction;
- Reforestation to generate revenues from wood exports;
- Promotion of the tourism industry;
- The creation of a housing and infrastructure program;
- Development and enlargement of the information technology sector;
- Reform in property rights to unleash the poor's economic potential;
- The creation of Hong Kong-type enclaves starting with 10,000 hectares in Clark and Subic, and
- Development of a new generation of farmers and fishermen with a large-scale program for non-traditional, high-value crops in farms and fisheries.

In a statement, former peasant leader and now Rep. Rafael Mariano (party-list Anakpawis) warned that the De Venecia program is "one big sell-out of the country's patrimony."

Mariano said that multinational corporations would become the main benefactors of the program.

Chinese detained for estafa

By Jerome Aning

THE BUREAU of Immigration yesterday detained a Chinese national who was intercepted a week ago at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport while trying to flee the country to evade prosecution for large-scale estafa.

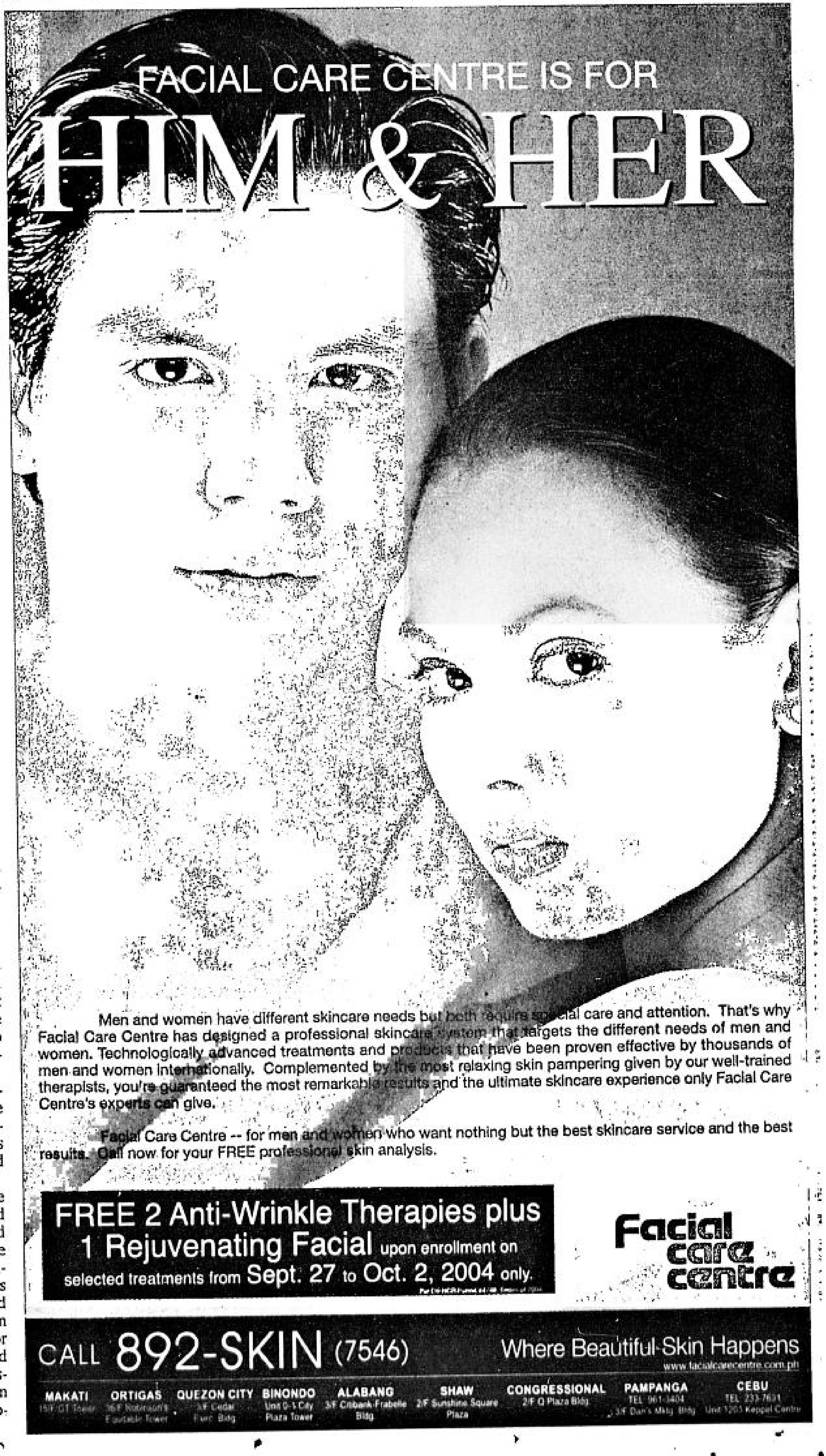
Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr. said Li Dong Yang and four companions were placed on the bureau's watch list at the request of the National Bureau of Investigation.

Yang was arrested at the NAIA by NBI agents on Sept. 21 as he was about to board a Cathay Pacific flight to Hong Kong. The NBI turned over Li to the immigration office yesterday.

The four other Chinese suspects, who are still at large, are all officers of the Passengers & Cargo Sales Co. Ltd based in Fujian, China.

The case against the suspects stemmed from a complaint filed with the NBI by the Triple Eight International Travel and Tours Inc., which accused the five of reneging on their agreement for the sale of chartered plane tickets to passengers traveling from China to the Philippines and vice versa.

Sa tamang pagpapaplano ng pamilya
KASANGGA MO ANG LANGIT!
TRUST FAMILY PROGRAM



FACIAL CARE CENTRE IS FOR HIM & HER

Men and women have different skincare needs but both require special care and attention. That's why Facial Care Centre has designed a professional skincare system that targets the different needs of men and women. Technologically advanced treatments and products that have been proven effective by thousands of men and women internationally. Complemented by the most relaxing skin pampering given by our well-trained therapists, you're guaranteed the most remarkable results and the ultimate skincare experience only Facial Care Centre's experts can give.

Facial Care Centre -- for men and women who want nothing but the best skincare service and the best results. Call now for your FREE professional skin analysis.

FREE 2 Anti-Wrinkle Therapies plus 1 Rejuvenating Facial upon enrollment on selected treatments from Sept. 27 to Oct. 2, 2004 only.

Facial care centre

CALL 892-SKIN (7546) Where Beautiful Skin Happens
www.facialcarecentre.com.ph

MAKATI ORTIGAS QUEZON CITY BINONDO ALABANG SHAW CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA CEBU

Reenacted budget looms anew

By Carlito Pablo

CAN THE reenacted 2004 national budget be reenacted a second time for 2005?

Rep. Edcel Lagman (Aksyon, Albay) yesterday warned that such a move would be open to constitutional challenge amid indications the 2004 budget may be reenacted next year.

Lagman, a member of the House appropriations committee, said that while the 1987 Constitution did not expressly prohibit a second reenactment, the charter's language and intent "can sustain [the] position that there can only be one reenactment."

A former undersecretary at the Department of Budget and Management, Lagman said this was because what the Constitution referred to for reenactment was the "general appropriations law for the preceding fiscal year in relation to the ensuing fiscal year."

"Consequently, only two years are envisioned—the immediately preceding fiscal year and the ensuing fiscal year," Lagman said.

The national budget for 2003 was reenacted in 2004 when Congress failed to pass the general appropriations bill for the latter year on time.

"The constitutional directive implicitly prohibits double or multiple reenactments of the general appropriations law," Lagman said.

Over the weekend, however, the chair of the House committee on appropriations ruled out a reenacted budget for 2005.

"The House is on track to pass the proposed P906.7-billion 2005 national budget before Dec. 31," said committee chair Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. (LP, Camarines Sur).

There is speculation Congress will not be able to complete its deliberations on the 2005 budget after the lawmakers decided to implement line item budgeting in the appropriations bill, a process that is more tedious than the current practice of making lump-sum appropriations.

Line item budgeting entails going over each appropriated expenditure "line by line," as opposed to the lump-sum system where an amount is appropriated for a project without going into the details of the expenditure.

Previously, the House wrapped up its budget deliberations before the end of the year and sent its appropriations bill to the Senate, which has its own version of the bill, for approval.

Representatives of the two chambers then went into a bicameral conference to reconcile the differences in their respective budget proposals.

Andaya said the common notion is that the country must have a new budget signed by the President before Dec. 31.

But he noted that, "In the last 15 years, only six general appropriations acts were signed into law before the bells tolled in the new year."

Kapatiran: Party of good guys banks on Divine plan

By Volt Contreras

PACHECO

WHEN the Commission on Elections finally accredited the Alliance for the Common Good or "Ang Kapatiran" as a political party, it only had two days to campaign before the May 10 elections.

Its founder, gun control lobbyist Reynaldo "Nandy" Pacheco, should have protested. After all, Kapatiran had filed its application months in advance, but Comelec recognized the group as a full-fledged political party on May 8, 2004.

Pacheco, founder of the Gunless Society Movement and a staunch campaigner for the abolition of the pork barrel, believed that Kapatiran's failure to participate in the last election was part of some Divine plan.

"I think God had a purpose," he said in a speech delivered at Club Filipino last week. "God did not want Kapatiran to take part in the last dirty elections.

"I think God wanted Kapatiran to complete the so-called building of a Noah's Ark, which people of good will can use for the social and political transformation of the country," he said.

Pacheco is now "scouting for servant-leaders" who wish to join his political party in time for the next elections.

"We want to find out how many we are," he said. "If you have been complaining about the current situation, then you should do something about it."

Since he launched Kapatiran in August 2002, Pacheco had styled the group as an alternative political vehicle for "ordinary citizens, who could no longer sit idly by while they see the betrayal of public trust by elected and appointed public officials."

Kapatiran, he said, was meant to be "the antidote to the politics of pork barrel and the politics of celebrity or personality, the politics of deception, hypocrisy, dishonesty, patronage, pay-off and immoral compromises, the politics of guns, goons and gold."

The group disapproves of, among other things, putting up billboards that advertise the accomplishments of elected officials, as well as the practice of some public officials who pursue careers in the media or entertainment.

Gochoco; 75

TERESITA A. Gochoco died on Sept. 25, at the age of 75. She is survived by her husband, Joaquin; children and in-laws, Avie and Resty Perez; Jimmy and Vivian; Tessa and Chris Murphy, and Delza; grandchildren, Wacky, Girlie, Megan, Samantha, Raffy, Erica, Christopher and Jacqueline. Her ashes were brought home after a one-day wake at the Philam chapel in Quezon City on Sunday.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, September 28, 2004
26th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Job 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23
Gospel: Lk 9:51-56

As the time drew near when Jesus would be taken up to heaven, he made up his mind to go to Jerusalem. He had sent ahead of him some messengers who entered a Samaritan village to prepare a lodging for him. But the people would not receive him because he was on his way to Jerusalem. Seeing this, James and John, his disciples said, "Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to reduce them to ashes?" Jesus turned and rebuked them, and they went on to another village.

Commentary

There was once a great saint who wandered around the country, always giving thanks to God, "Thank you, Lord, you always give us everything we need!" Some people were attracted to his lifestyle and took to wandering with him. They would beg their food and shelter wherever they went. One day they were given nothing to eat, and they were turned from every door when they asked for lodging. But the saint continued, "Thank you, Lord, you always give us everything we need!" Next day they fared no better; and again the next day: nothing. Still the old man continued, "Thank you, Lord, thank you…" This was too much for one of the disciples, and he said, "Haven't you noticed that for the past three days the Lord has given us nothing?" "Well then," said the old man, "it must be that we needed three days of hunger and poverty. Thank you, Lord, you always give us everything we need."

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

LABOR LAW (TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT)—Purposes of Articles 280 and 281 of the Labor Code—Article 280 of the Labor Code of the Philippines was emplaced in our statute books to prevent the circumvention by unscrupulous employers of the employee's right to be secure in his tenure by indiscriminately and completely ruling out all written and oral agreements inconsistent with the concept of regular employment defined therein. The language of the law manifests the intent to protect the tenurial interest of the worker who may be denied the rights and benefits due a regular employee because of lopsided agreements with the economically powerful employer who can maneuver to keep an employee on a casual or temporary status for as long as it is convenient to it. In tandem with Article 281 of the Labor Code, Article 280 was designed to put an end to the pernicious practice of making permanent casuals of our lowly employees by the simple expedient of extending to them temporary or probationary appointments, ad infinitum. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Callejo, Sr., Second Division, Philips Semiconductors (Phils,), Inc. vs Fadriquela, G. R. No. 141717] BY R. B. VERA

Super
LOW Fares
Over 50% off on most fares
Manila to Bacolod
Manila to Cebu
Manila to Iloilo
Manila to Kalibo
Manila to Puerto Princesa
Manila to Roxas
Manila to Tacloban
Manila to Tagbilaran
For as low as Php 1,298 One-way
Manila to Butuan
Manila to Cagayan De Oro
Manila to Davao
Manila to Zamboanga
For as low as Php 1,898 One-way

Conditions:

1. Application
   Valid for one-way or round-trip travel on economy class.
2. Reservations, Payment and Ticketing
   2.1. Closed booking is required, go-show not allowed.
   2.2 No waitlist.
3. Advertising and Sales.
   3.1 Restricted to the Philippines.
   3.2 Selling period : September 17 to October 15, 2004.
4. Travel Validity
   4.1 Travel may start September 20, 2004.
   4.2 Travel must be completed by October 22, 2004.
5. Reissuance/Refunds
   Non-refundable but ticket may be reissued to a higher fare type except KPR and KBP fares within the validity of the promo. Fare difference will be collected and subject to reissuance fee of Php200.
6. Rebooking/Rerouting
   6.1 Rebooking penalty of Php200 per transaction plus no-show penalty if applicable.
   6.2 Rerouting is not allowed.

Note: Fares are exclusive of insurance surcharge, Aviation Security Fee and other fees. Fares are subject to change without prior notice.

Hurry! Limited seats only!

Philippine Airlines
It's about experience
www.philippineairlines.com

For bookings and inquiries, please call PAL reservations Manila (02) 855-8888 · Cebu (032) 340-0191 · Davao (082) 222-0366.
Visit the nearest PAL Ticket Office, travel agent or www.philippineairlines.com.

Reenacted budget looms anew

By Carlito Pablo

CAN THE reenacted 2004 national budget be reenacted a second time for 2005?

Rep. Edcel Lagman (Aksyon, Albay) yesterday warned that such a move would be open to constitutional challenge amid indications the 2004 budget may be reenacted next year.

Lagman, a member of the House appropriations committee, said that while the 1987 Constitution did not expressly prohibit a second reenactment, the charter's language and intent "can sustain [the] position that there can only be one reenactment."

A former undersecretary at the Department of Budget and Management, Lagman said this was because what the Constitution referred to for reenactment was the "general appropriations law for the preceding fiscal year in relation to the ensuing fiscal year."

"Consequently, only two years are envisioned—the immediately preceding fiscal year and the ensuing fiscal year," Lagman said.

The national budget for 2003 was reenacted in 2004 when Congress failed to pass the general appropriations bill for the latter year on time.

"The constitutional directive implicitly prohibits double or multiple reenactments of the general appropriations law," Lagman said.

Over the weekend, however, the chair of the House committee on appropriations ruled out a reenacted budget for 2005.

"The House is on track to pass the proposed P906.7-billion 2005 national budget before Dec. 31," said committee chair Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. (LP, Camarines Sur).

There is speculation Congress will not be able to complete its deliberations on the 2005 budget after the lawmakers decided to implement line item budgeting in the appropriations bill, a process that is more tedious than the current practice of making lump-sum appropriations.

Line item budgeting entails going over each appropriated expenditure "line by line," as opposed to the lump-sum system where an amount is appropriated for a project without going into the details of the expenditure.

Previously, the House wrapped up its budget deliberations before the end of the year and sent its appropriations bill to the Senate, which has its own version of the bill, for approval.

Representatives of the two chambers then went into a bicameral conference to reconcile the differences in their respective budget proposals.

Andaya said the common notion is that the country must have a new budget signed by the President before Dec. 31.

But he noted that, "In the last 15 years, only six general appropriations acts were signed into law before the bells tolled in the new year."

Kapatiran: Party of good guys banks on Divine plan

By Volt Contreras

PACHECO

WHEN the Commission on Elections finally accredited the Alliance for the Common Good or "Ang Kapatiran" as a political party, it only had two days to campaign before the May 10 elections.

Its founder, gun control lobbyist Reynaldo "Nandy" Pacheco, should have protested. After all, Kapatiran had filed its application months in advance, but Comelec recognized the group as a full-fledged political party on May 8, 2004.

Pacheco, founder of the Gunless Society Movement and a staunch campaigner for the abolition of the pork barrel, believed that Kapatiran's failure to participate in the last election was part of some Divine plan.

"I think God had a purpose," he said in a speech delivered at Club Filipino last week. "God did not want Kapatiran to take part in the last dirty elections.

"I think God wanted Kapatiran to complete the so-called building of a Noah's Ark, which people of good will can use for the social and political transformation of the country," he said.

Pacheco is now "scouting for servant-leaders" who wish to join his political party in time for the next elections.

"We want to find out how many we are," he said. "If you have been complaining about the current situation, then you should do something about it."

Since he launched Kapatiran in August 2002, Pacheco had styled the group as an alternative political vehicle for "ordinary citizens, who could no longer sit idly by while they see the betrayal of public trust by elected and appointed public officials."

Kapatiran, he said, was meant to be "the antidote to the politics of pork barrel and the politics of celebrity or personality, the politics of deception, hypocrisy, dishonesty, patronage, pay-off and immoral compromises, the politics of guns, goons and gold."

The group disapproves of, among other things, putting up billboards that advertise the accomplishments of elected officials, as well as the practice of some public officials who pursue careers in the media or entertainment.

Gochoco; 75

TERESITA A. Gochoco died on Sept. 25, at the age of 75. She is survived by her husband, Joaquin; children and in-laws, Avie and Resty Perez; Jimmy and Vivian; Tessa and Chris Murphy, and Delza; grandchildren, Wacky, Girlie, Megan, Samantha, Raffy, Erica, Christopher and Jacqueline. Her ashes were brought home after a one-day wake at the Philam chapel in Quezon City on Sunday.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, September 28, 2004
26th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Job 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23
Gospel: Lk 9:51-56

As the time drew near when Jesus would be taken up to heaven, he made up his mind to go to Jerusalem. He had sent ahead of him some messengers who entered a Samaritan village to prepare a lodging for him. But the people would not receive him because he was on his way to Jerusalem. Seeing this, James and John, his disciples said, "Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to reduce them to ashes?" Jesus turned and rebuked them, and they went on to another village.

Commentary

There was once a great saint who wandered around the country, always giving thanks to God, "Thank you, Lord, you always give us everything we need!" Some people were attracted to his lifestyle and took to wandering with him. They would beg their food and shelter wherever they went. One day they were given nothing to eat, and they were turned from every door when they asked for lodging. But the saint continued, "Thank you, Lord, you always give us everything we need!" Next day they fared no better; and again the next day: nothing. Still the old man continued, "Thank you, Lord, thank you..." This was too much for one of the disciples, and he said, "Haven't you noticed that for the past three days the Lord has given us nothing?" "Well then," said the old man, "it must be that we needed three days of hunger and poverty. Thank you, Lord, you always give us everything we need."

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

LABOR LAW (TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT)—Purposes of Articles 280 and 281 of the Labor Code—Article 280 of the Labor Code of the Philippines was emplaced in our statute books to prevent the circumvention by unscrupulous employers of the employee's right to be secure in his tenure by indiscriminately and completely ruling out all written and oral agreements inconsistent with the concept of regular employment defined therein. The language of the law manifests the intent to protect the tenurial interest of the worker who may be denied the rights and benefits due a regular employee because of lopsided agreements with the economically powerful employer who can maneuver to keep an employee on a casual or temporary status for as long as it is convenient to it. In tandem with Article 281 of the Labor Code, Article 280 was designed to put an end to the pernicious practice of making permanent casuals of our lowly employees by the simple expedient of extending to them temporary or probationary appointments, ad infinitum. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Callejo, Sr., Second Division, Philips Semiconductors (Phils.), Inc. vs Fadriquela, G. R. No. 141717] BY R. B. VERA

Super
Low Fares
Over 50% off on most fares
Manila to Bacolod
Manila to Cebu
Manila to Iloilo
Manila to Kalibo
Manila to Puerto Princesa
Manila to Roxas
Manila to Tacloban
Manila to Tagbilaran
For as low as
Php 1,298
One-way
Manila to Butuan
Manila to Cagayan De Oro
Manila to Davao
Manila to Zamboanga
For as low as
Php 1,898
One-way

Conditions:

1. Application
   Valid for one-way or round-trip travel on economy class.
2. Reservations, Payment and Ticketing
   2.1. Closed booking is required, go-show not allowed.
   2.2 No waitlist.
3. Advertising and Sales.
   3.1 Restricted to the Philippines.
   3.2 Selling period : September 17 to October 15, 2004.
4. Travel Validity
   4.1 Travel may start September 20, 2004.
   4.2 Travel must be completed by October 22, 2004.
5. Reissuance/Refunds
   Non-refundable but ticket may be reissued to a higher fare type except KPR and KBP fares within the validity of the promo. Fare difference will be collected and subject to reissuance fee of Php200.
6. Rebooking/Rerouting
   6.1 Rebooking penalty of Php200 per transaction plus no-show penalty if applicable.
   6.2 Rerouting is not allowed.

Note: Fares are exclusive of Insurance surcharge, Aviation Security Fee and other fees. Fares are subject to change without prior notice.

Hurry! Limited seats only!

Philippine Airlines
It's about experience
www.philippineairlines.com

For bookings and inquiries, please call PAL reservations Manila (02) 855-8888 · Cebu (032) 340-0191 · Davao (082) 222-0366.
Visit the nearest PAL Ticket Office, travel agent or www.philippineairlines.com.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

HK links probed in secret lab bust

THE GOVERNMENT is investigating possible links between Hong Kong drug syndicates and nine foreigners arrested in a US-backed raid for allegedly running a huge secret drug lab, officials said yesterday.

Anti-narcotics officials said they have asked their Hong Kong counterparts to investigate information indicating that the four Chinese, two Taiwanese, two Malaysians and a Briton were working with drug rings in the former British colony.

Two Filipinos also were arrested in the raid on Friday in Mandaue City. The raid was staged in coordination with the US Drug Enforcement Administration, said Anselmo Avenido, head of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency.

Police seized 675 kilograms of methamphetamine worth P1.3 billion.

Avenido said there were enough chemicals in the lab to produce another 7.5 tons of methamphetamine hydrochloride, locally called "shabu," worth P15 billion.

The foreigners would be charged with importing and manufacturing illegal drugs, a crime punishable by death, he said. *AP*

Gov't launches 'English' tours

By Jerome Aning

SEE the Philippines and learn English.

The Department of Tourism has launched Philippines ESL (English as a Second Language) Tour Program, which hopes to lure Chinese, Japanese, South Korean and Taiwanese tourists who also want to learn English as a language.

"The DOT has developed tours combining English language courses with holiday and vacation activities," said Tourism Undersecretary Evelyn Pantig. "It provides student visitors opportunities for cultural immersion, thereby enhancing their appreciation and understanding of Filipino culture."

The Philippines has an advantage over other Asian countries as an alternative destination for the study of English because 93.5 percent of the Filipinos can speak and understand the language.

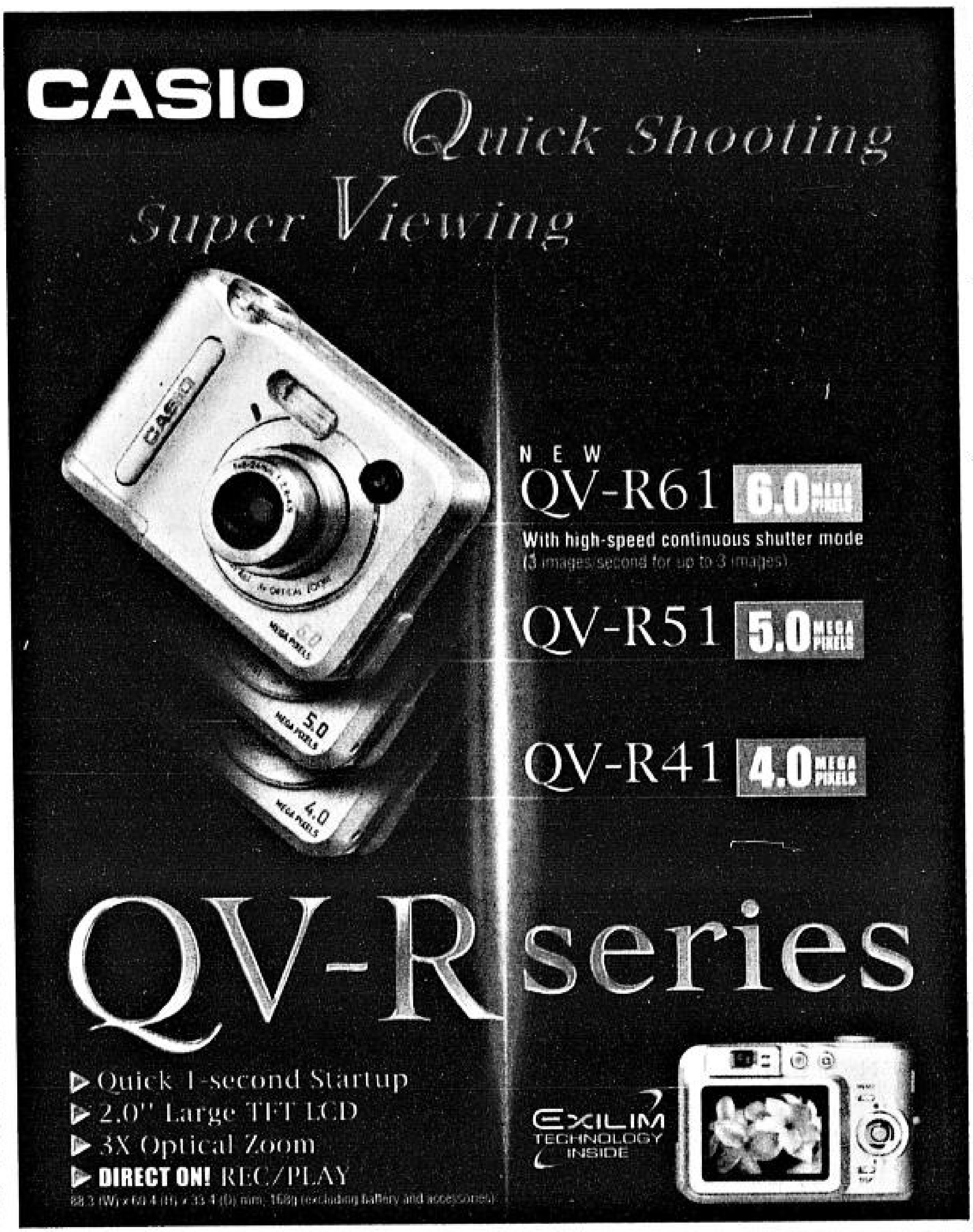
Pantig led government officials in signing the memorandum of agreement for the program at the DOT office in Manila. The other signatories were Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Jose Brillantes, Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez and Deputy Director General Santiago Yabut Jr. of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.

Participants may avail of the following Learn English Philippine Holiday tour packages: The "Homestay Program" allows a student tourist to live with a Filipino family for the duration of his lessons. The "Sail Away English Trip" is conducted on board inter-island cruise ships with cultural and tour components.

The "Learn English Camps" is an outdoor camp-style activity which integrates sessions on the study of the English language. The "English-on-the-Road" offers day tours or three-day, two-night trips by land with the basic English language learning module conducted during the road trip.

Foreign tourists who wish to enroll in a non-degree course for less than a year are required to secure a special study permit from the Bureau of Immigration upon arrival in the Philippines. Foreign ESL students may refer to the DFA website, www.dfa.gov.ph, for entry requirements, visa extension, cost per module and application.

EUROLUX
For ALL your Lighting needs!
"Great Quality at a Great Price that's our GUARANTEE to our customers."
German Technology
www.eurolux.com 722-2000


CASIO
Quick Shooting
Super Viewing
NEW
QV-R61 6.0 MEGA PIXELS
With high-speed continuous shutter mode
(3 images/second for up to 3 images)
QV-R51 5.0 MEGA PIXELS
QV-R41 4.0 MEGA PIXELS
QV-R series
▶ Quick 1-second Startup
▶ 2.0" Large TFT LCD
▶ 3X Optical Zoom
▶ DIRECT ON! REC/PLAY
88.3 (W) x 60.4 (H) x 33.4 (D) mm; 168g (excluding battery and accessories)
EXILIM TECHNOLOGY INSIDE
http://world.casio.com
CASIO COMPUTER CO.,LTD.
Tokyo, Japan

COMPEX INTERNATIONAL
GBW Building, 341 Quezon Ave., Quezon City.
TEL: 711-0288
FAX: 711-0614
www.compexinternational.com

COLUMBIA GLOBAL PHOTO SALES CORP.
129-135 G. Roxas St., SFDM, Quezon City
TEL: 363-7463 ; 363-8550 ; 365-0927 / 28 ; 414-3110
FAX: 364-3334
www.columbiaglobal.net

SLIMMERS WORLD
VS
Other Fitness Centers
BEFORE
AFTER
BIO DYNAMICS, a whole new concept in Body Care devised and researched at Tufts University, USA. It's harmless and guaranteed. There is no starvation, no rigorous programmes. You are guided all the way through your programme. We guarantee your results in writing and you only pay for the inches you lose. There are NO MONTHLY DUES and NO JOINING FEES.
BIO DYNAMICS HOTLINES 5240676/8873531
PERSONAL TRAINING
One-on-one supervision towards a Great Body.
FITNESS HOTLINE 8873533
CELLPHONE 09178984744

SAVE UP TO P21,000
ONLY P40 per day on Full Fitness Enrollment
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP. 0% INTEREST.
NO MONTHLY DUES. NO JOINING FEES.
First 25 today.
PLEASE CALL THE CENTER NEAREST YOU FOR FREE BODY, SKIN AND FIGURE ANALYSIS.
SLIMMERS WORLD Face, Skin & Cosmetic CENTERS
PERMANENT LASER HAIR REMOVAL [illegible]
FREE
SKIN WHITENING on all Full Programmes First 25 today
CONSULTATION with our in-house Dermatologist
OTHER TREATMENTS:
■ Botox ■ Restylane
■ [illegible] ■ Ultrapeel
■ Facial ■ Laser Acne Treatment ■ Wart Removal
■ Nutracell-Face
BEFORE
AFTER
SKIN HOTLINE 8871331
CELLPHONE 09164099312

CALL US:
www.slimmersworld.com.ph inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

ALABANG
Carla/Rafi
2F RCBC Bldg.
Zapote Alabang Rd.
809-0396

BINONDO
Thelma/Jannah
3F Regina
Garden II
242-1312

CALOOCAN
Sherry/Bheng
6F Panorama
Bldg., Rizal Ave.
365-7653

CEBU
Joanna
Basement 1&2
Ayala Center
231-3254

GREENHILLS
Bianca
27F Atlanta Ctr.
#31 Annapolis
726-6505

LEGASPI VILL.
Heidih / Grace
GF Zeta Bldg.
Salcedo St.
893-8935

MALATE
Tin
6F Adriatico Square
Adriatico ,Manila
536-0619

MEGAMALL
Shella/Jenny
2F Bldg. A
Mandaluyong
631-3869

PASAY ROAD
Cher / Eleanor
1032 Arnaiz Ave.
cor. Hernandez St.
887-1335
09178515920

PASIG
Joe/Muffet
Restaurant Ave.
Marcos Hi-way
681-5333

SM NORTH
Mitch
2F Annex Bldg.
Quezon City
929-5429

SUBIC
Beth
2F Times Square
Rizal Hi-way
252-6514

TRAFALGAR
Breezy
28F Trafalgar Plaza
H.V dela Costa
814-0138

SKIN CENTER: ALABANG 7750586/09183912510 BINONDO 2420728/09178224399 GREENHILLS 7261526/09182112732 MALATE 5259891/09213173415 MEGAMALL 6377543/09162479753 PASAY RD. 8873530/09165320785 PASIG 6473814/09275341314

NPA hand seen in killing of ex-rebel

ARTURO Tabara's nephew Cecil and his wife Ces view the body of the slain rebel leader in a funeral parlor in Quezon City. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

From page A1

Tabara, leader of a faction that broke away from the CPP in 1992, and Ong, the boyfriend of his daughter, were shot dead in the parking lot of SM Fairview.

Tabara was secretary general of the CPP-Visayas who formed the RPM-P in 1993—which linked up with the urban communist hit squad Alex Boncayao Brigade in 1997. The group forged a peace deal with then President Joseph Estrada in 1999.

Police investigation showed that the killer had walked up to Tabara, pumped bullets into his vital points, and didn't leave until he was sure he was dead.

All in Quezon City

Director Avelino Razon Jr., chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, said investigators were looking into possible connections between the Tabara killing and those of other ex-CPP leaders, Filemon "Popoy" Lagman (killed in 2001) and Romulo "Rolly" Kintanar (killed in 2003).

The three murders all occurred in Quezon City.

"The incident bore the signature of the NPA," Razon said. "That's why we're looking for commonalities among the three cases.

"But we're not discounting other angles, such as the possibility that the killing was the result of a personal grudge," he added.

PNP Director General Edgar Aglipay formed a task force to investigate Tabara's killing and to also solve the Lagman and Kintanar assassinations. He said investigators already had significant leads.

Tabara, 53, was shot twice—in the nape and chest. Ong, 19, took three shots in the body.

Victims not armed

The killer or killers shot them at close range as the two victims alighted from their Toyota Revo AUV.

Tabara and Ong were not armed, Razon said.

Recovered from the scene were five spent shells of a .45-cal. pistol, the same gun type used in the killing of Lagman and Kintanar.

PNP intelligence chief Director Robert Delfin said Tabara had been on the NPA hit list since he broke away from the communist mainstream.

"He was warned two to three months ago that assassins were hunting him down," Delfin told the INQUIRER.

Same murder weapon

Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal, former PNP Intelligence Group director, said the threat was "inherent" in Tabara's decision to break ties with his comrades.

This was the same angle that police had looked into in the Lagman and Kintanar killings.

Both men had also severed ties with the CPP. Lagman put up the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, and Kintanar, lying low, worked as a security consultant at the Bureau of Immigration.

Two weeks ago, a senior police official told the INQUIRER that the PNP had already identified the assailants of Lagman and Kintanar.

"We even found that the same pistol was used in both murders," the official said.

Rosal, interviewed on his mobile phone, alleged that Tabara had numerous standing criminal offenses "against the people of Negros and Panay and the revolutionary movement.

Armed and dangerous

"Sometimes, NPA units from the countryside send their partisan unit to arrest an individual (facing charges) before the people's court. After doing its mission, the team immediately goes back to its regular units in the province," Rosal said.

If the killing was really a rebel job, the NPA unit might have been pushed to shoot Tabara after they sensed that he was "armed and dangerous," Rosal said.

He said that since bolting the CPP, Tabara had been involved in the counterinsurgency program of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"While still within the CPP leadership, Tabara was a regular MIG (Military Intelligence Group) spy. He even took away important documents of the party. The party proved these allegations to be true," he said.

Nilo de la Cruz, another top RPM-P leader, scoffed at Rosal's claims that Tabara was a government agent or that his group had served as the private army of a politician.

A rebel's conviction

"The formation of the RPM-P in 1998 and its Second Congress held this year all attest to his conviction of pursuing a revolution," De la Cruz said.

De la Cruz added: "It is common knowledge in the left-progressive community that we are, in fact, one (of the poorest), if not the poorest. Our practice will show that we will never betray our sworn principle and commitment of serving and protecting the people's interest."

He said the decision of Tabara's group to talk peace with the government was "compelled by (RPM-P's) honest reading that the present situation dictates a period of struggle for reforms so that the people can still gain victories, nay minimal, in this period of revolutionary ebb."

Tabara had known that he was a target for assassination.

"We are not afraid to die," Tabara had told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview on Sept. 4, the eve of the burial of Daniel Batoy, Western Visayas commander of the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-ABB, who was killed in an NPA ambush in Aklan.

Tabara said the risks were part of "the road to peace," which, he said, could be elusive.

The RPM-P and its armed wing, the RPA-ABB, condemned the killings and pointed to the CPP-NPA as the one responsible.

RPA-ABB national commander Stephen Paduano, alias Carapali Lualhati, said his group would maintain its policy of "active defense." *With reports from Marlon Ramos and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Tina G. Santos in Manila; and Nestor P. Burgos Jr. and Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

SLAIN BREAKAWAY REBELS

FOLLOWING is a list of breakaway communist leaders believed to have been killed by New People's Army assassins:

Leopoldo "Ka Hector" Mabilangan, 34: Former spokesperson of the Quezon-based NPA Banahaw Command. Shot dead in front of the parish church of Sto. Tomas, Batangas on April 3, 1994. The NPA claimed the killing.

Eduardo "Ka Aris" Borromeo: Aide of Mabilangan in the NPA Banahaw Command. Abducted in Mauban, Quezon, in October 1997. His body was found on Oct. 17, 1997 in Pagsanjan, Laguna, with multiple bullet wounds.

Conrado "Ka Ambo" Balweg: Former priest who founded the Cordillera People's Liberation Army, which split from the Communist Party of the Philippines in 1987. Shot dead in Malibcong, Abra, on Dec. 31, 1999. The NPA claimed the killing.

Filemon "Ka Popoy" Lagman: Former head of the CPP's Manila-Rizal Regional Committee who joined the "rejectionist" breakaway from the CPP in 1992 and led the above-ground Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino and the Sanlakas. Shot dead on the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City, on Feb. 6, 2001.

Romulo "Ka Rolly" Kintanar: Former NPA chief. Killed in a restaurant at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City on Jan. 23, 2003. The CPP claimed the killing.

Raymundo "Teteng" Tejeno: Municipal leader of the Federation of Small Farmers of San Narciso, an affiliate of the Peasant Movement of Bondoc Peninsula and part of the National Coordination of Autonomous Local Rural People's Organizations, which is supported by the party-list Akbayan. Shot dead on Feb. 4, 2003. The NPA claimed the killing.

Florente "Boy" Ocmen, 52: Akbayan chair of Jabonga, Agusan del Norte, "*kahanay*" of the Pandayan Para Sa Sosyalistang Pilipinas, and barangay chair of Sitio Banga, Jabonga. Killed in Jabonga on May 27, 2003. Witnesses said local NPA members were responsible for his death, but this was denied by the CPP-NPA.

Donie Valencia, 22: Alleged organizer of the Marxist-Leninist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan. Abducted in Sitio Calaylayan, Barangay Kabukiran, Abucay, Bataan, on June 11, 2003. Killed on June 17, 2003.

Daniel "Ka Mokong" Batoy: Western Visayas leader of the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB) and among the leaders of the "rejectionist" bloc in Panay. He and his daughter Perla Jane were killed in Makato, Aklan, on Aug. 22, 2004. The NPA claimed the killing.

PDI RESEARCH
SOURCES: PDI ARCHIVES; HTTP://WWW.OKDE.ORG/DIVERS/CPP_AS-SPOL_030703.HTM

'A partner not only in love but also in fight for justice'

By Edson Castro Tandoc Jr.

SHE EMBRACED her youngest daughter and told her to be strong.

Veronica Tabara, 50, and daughter Rosa Aurora had just emerged from the morgue where the body of assassinated former rebel leader Arturo Tabara had lain. The daughter had wept in her mother's arms.

Veronica may have lost her husband but she is not giving up the fight.

"(His death) should never discourage the fight for social justice but serve as an inspiration in these times of crisis," she told reporters yesterday evening.

Her husband Arturo, 53, and Stephen Ong, 19, the boyfriend of Rosa Aurora, were assassinated in Quezon City the other night.

Arturo was the chair of the communist breakaway group Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa-Pilipinas.

Ong was a business management student at Silliman University. He would have graduated next year, his father told the INQUIRER.

Veronica was with Arturo and Stephen minutes before the crime. They were about to buy a plane ticket for Stephen, who was scheduled to return to Dumaguete City.

"They dropped me off at the entrance [to the SM Fairview mall] and they looked for a parking space. Suddenly, there was a commotion. I felt something was wrong. I called their cell phones but they were not answering," Veronica said.

The family knew that some people were after Arturo.

Veronica said they heard that her husband had been included in the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army order of battle.

"That meant they would punish him with death," Veronica said.

She described her husband as her "partner not only in love but also in the fight for social justice."

A few years ago, the couple decided to continue the struggle through peaceful means. Arturo's group had since become involved in peace talks with the government.

The assassination left a 6-day-old baby to grow up without a father. Rosa Aurora had just given birth last week.

"If they still have a heart, they should think whether or not violence can help in the search for social justice," Veronica said.

Arturo's and Ong's remains are at the Funeraria Paz on Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Enrile favors amnesty for mutineers

From page A1

A year later, Marcos' successor, Corazon Aquino, fired Enrile as her defense chief on suspicion that he was involved in the "God Save the Queen" plot against her.

Enrile was later detained on charges of rebellion complexed with murder but the Supreme Court dismissed the case on grounds that there was no such crime in the statute books.

A resolution asking President Macapagal-Arroyo to extend amnesty to the leaders and soldiers of the Magdalo group involved in the July 2003 Oakwood mutiny is pending before the Senate.

Sen. Alfredo Lim said he filed it on Aug. 11, or more than a month before the six mutiny leaders publicly apologized to Ms Arroyo for their actions.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines hinted yesterday that it was not completely sold on the idea of amnesty for the mutineers.

AFP spokesperson Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero said the military would prefer to let the law take its course against the leaders of the Magdalo group.

"On the part of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, we will stick to the principle that if there will be forgiveness, it will be with justice," Lucero said.

Minority support

In a statement, Lim said he had the support of the nine-member minority bloc, which had agreed to co-sponsor his resolution calling on the government to "exercise leniency and absolve (the) offenders" if it was serious about its call for national reconciliation.

"(The) government must demonstrate magnanimity in the face of the current political strife that divides this nation and as a manifestation of its desire for genuine national reconciliation so that its energies could be devoted on more important aspects of national progress and development," Lim said in his resolution.

Making the case for the rebels, Lim said the soldiers and officers had intended to blow up certain areas around the Oakwood Premier Hotel in Makati City but they did not push through with their plan. Instead, they surrendered to the authorities.

"Not a single life was lost or a single drop of blood shed, even as there was no property destroyed or a single shot fired," he said.

Reforms

Lim said there would be no basis for future coups if the government undertook the necessary reforms.

"But if the government continues its corrupt ways, the possibility [of another coup] arises," he said.

He added: "We're not saying that we're advocating that they (the soldiers) should take the law into their own hands. It should just be a wake-up call, which was what they (the Magdalo group) did.

"If you will compare that with the MNLF (Moro National Liberation Front), how many barrios have they set on fire? Like the RAM coups, how many died there? Fifty-three," he said. "Why were the [previous] coup plotters granted amnesty? We must apply one standard here."

Prof. Carolina Hernandez, a member of the Feliciano Commission which looked into the military takeover of Oakwood, has said an amnesty for the mutineers would only embolden adventurists.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan also took a hardline position against an amnesty grant, saying the rule of law must be upheld.

"We have to ensure proportional punishment in order to discourage similar attempts of destabilization in the future," Pangilinan said in a statement. "We have to send a clear signal that the Armed Forces of the Philippines is first and foremost a citizen's armed forces and that civilian authority over the military must be observed at all times."

Justice denied?

Talking to reporters, Lucero pointed out that certain sectors of society affected by the Oakwood incident would not be able to get justice for the harm they had suffered if the mutineers were let off the hook.

"Those who were affected by their acts during the Oakwood mutiny will not be given justice. (These include) the business sector and also the whole nation," he said.

"We have seen the negative effects of their actions, particularly on the nation's image in the international community and you know how our economy was affected during that time."

But Lucero said he also recognized that amnesty would "accelerate the reconciliation process of the government."

Ironically, Lucero himself was part of the RAM group which launched a series of coup attempts in the '80s. He was with the group that took over the V. V. Soliven building along Edsa during the 1989 coup. He benefited from an amnesty later granted to the RAM soldiers.

Palace assurance

Malacañang yesterday gave assurances that the military officers involved in the Oakwood rebellion would not receive special treatment despite their apology. But it did not rule out a grant of pardon or amnesty in the future.

"It is very clear that justice will continue to take its course alongside the President's acceptance of the apology of the young officers," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

"We have to bear in mind that the Magdalo leaders themselves have not asked for special treatment in return for their action, so we must leave the matter to stand," Bunye said.

"The important thing is that the cause of reconciliation with justice has been served," he said.

He said the issue of amnesty would be tackled after the cases had been decided.

"We're aware of the fact that a number of suggestions towards this end have been proposed, but we will tackle that question at the proper time," he said.

Talking on Radyo ng Bayan, Bunye said: "As to the fate of the soldier and officers, it is very clear that the proceedings against them should continue. They face cases in the civilian and military courts. It is important that a decision be handed out first before talking about the kind of leniency that would be accorded the Magdalo officers."

Pardon or amnesty?

Bunye said talk about pardon or amnesty was premature.

"The young Magdalo officers have not asked for any concessions at this point, they just expressed the fact that they were sorry for what happened. The President accepted the apology and ordered that the case against them be expedited. We are at that stage right now. All other questions will have to take a back seat in the meantime while the proceedings are going on," he said.

Asked if the Magdalo officers would be pardoned if and when they are convicted, Bunye said: "What is being discussed now is how to expedite their trial because it had been going on for a year and not moving. They (both sides) have been stuck at the preliminary stage.

"So with the instructions of the President, I think the hearings on the Magdalo case would be expedited," the secretary added.

Notice of withdrawal

Lawyer Homobono Adaza yesterday filed a notice of withdrawal as counsel for the rebel soldiers in the Makati Regional Trial Court.

"Some people think that the soldiers sold out because they felt betrayed," Adaza said in a phone interview. "I have to protect myself because people have been asking me if I am a *kasabwat* (accomplice)."

He said his clients should have consulted their lawyers first before making the "shocking, earth-shaking and disappointing apology through which the nation through the magic of television became an unbelieving witness.

"It is obvious that I am useless at this stage in time to my clients," Adaza said. *With reports from Alcuin Papa, Juliet Labog-Javellana and Margaux C. Ortiz*

Fourteen-hour water interruption in portions of San Juan, Mandaluyong and Quezon City due to water improvement project

As part of the upgrade of water mainlines, Manila Water will replace a 400-mm in diameter mainline in Horseshoe Village which will cause low water pressure to no water service to some portions of San Juan, Quezon City and Mandaluyong. We regret the inconvenience this will bring our customers. The pipe replacement will be undertaken from **9:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 29, 2004, up to 11:00 a.m., Thursday, September 30.**

Affected Areas are:
San Juan: Brgy. Isabelita, St. Joseph, Onse, Sta. Lucia, Maytunas, Addition Hills, Corazon de Jesus, Little Baguio and Pasadena.
Mandaluyong: Brgy. Hagdang Bato Libis, Addition Hills, Hagdang Bato Itaas and Welfare Ville.
Quezon City: Brgy. New Manila, Valencia, and part of Horseshoe.

Residents are advised to store enough water prior to the schedule of the water interruption.

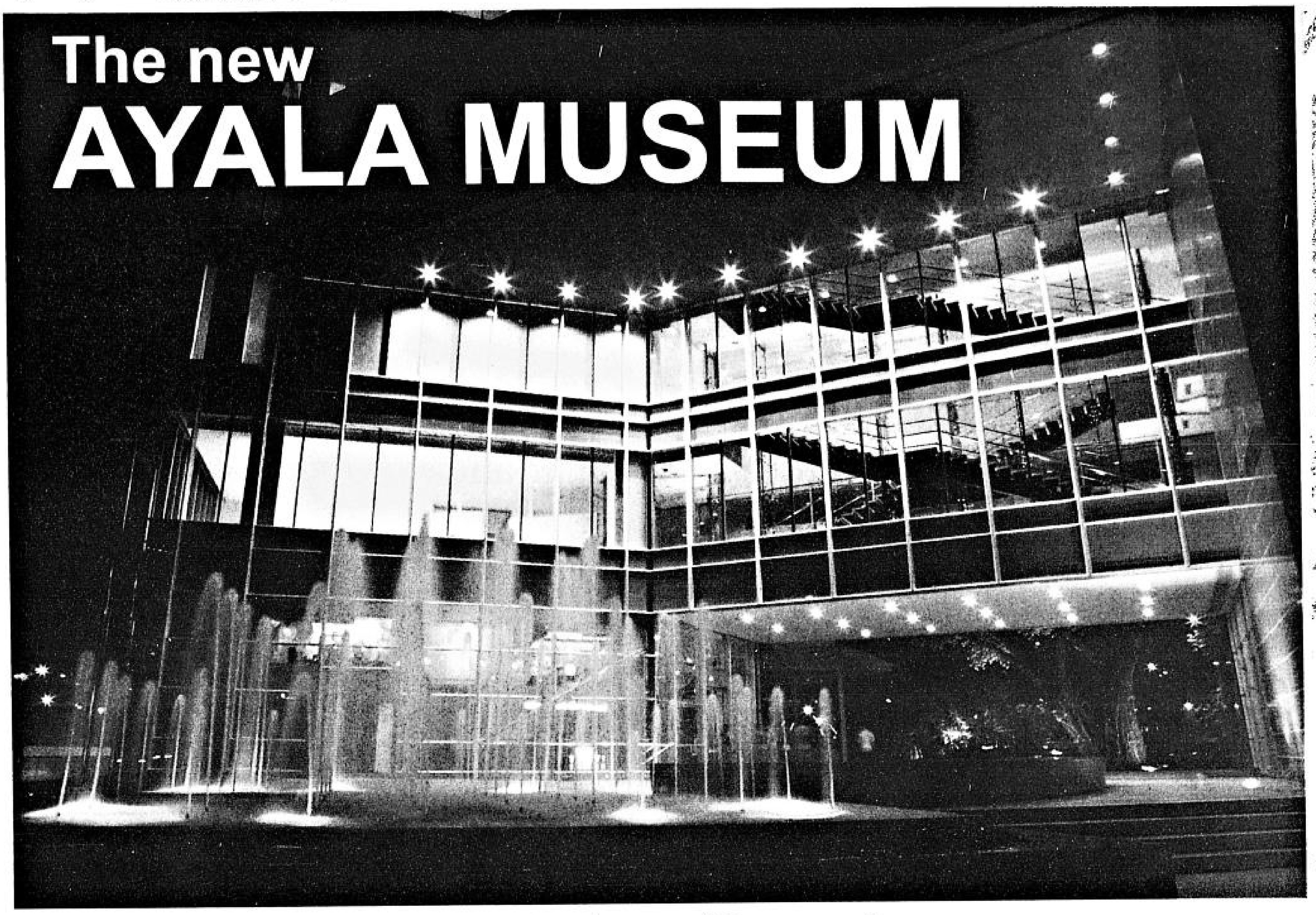
Manila Water

For the latest update, please call our Customer Call Center Hotline at 1627.

PDI - September 28, 2004

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The new AYALA MUSEUM



A Gift to the Filipino People

A museum plays a vital role in defining national identity. It was for this purpose that the Ayala Museum was first established in 1967.

The new Ayala Museum will again give Filipinos the opportunity to better appreciate, understand, and take pride in their history and heritage. Its dedication today as the highlight of the 170th anniversary of Ayala Corporation represents a renewed commitment to support and nurture Filipino creativity and artistry.

The Ayala Museum chronicles our nation's journey. It holds treasures that mirror a rich past and a continuously evolving present—artworks that are lasting legacies for future generations. As Filipinos, we owe it to ourselves to recognize the value of our history, culture, and arts, which define who we are and who we will become.

The Ayala Museum. A gift from Ayala Corporation.
At 170, celebrating the Filipino.

Ayala

Ayala Museum is located at Makati Avenue corner Dela Rosa Street, Greenbelt Park, Makati City. Visit our website at www.ayalamuseum.org.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Thai bird flu case fans human link fear

BANGKOK—Thailand, rattled by fears a girl passed bird flu to her mother, said on Monday it has no evidence of human-to-human transmission of the deadly H5N1 virus in the country.

The World Health Organization said there was only a "very remote possibility" that the greatest fear of experts—the virus mutating, acquiring the capability to spread between people and setting off a pandemic—would be realized.

Nevertheless, officials of the WHO, the health ministry and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention met for three hours to discuss the case and were briefed by Thai health officials just back from the area where the girl died.

Dr. Kumara Rai, the acting head of the WHO in Thailand, declined to give details of the meeting, saying he did not want to "create unnecessary panic."

Such details were expected to emerge on Tuesday, once senior Thai officials had been briefed on the meeting, he said.

Beforehand, Rai said the great fear of human-to-human transmission of a virus that has killed 20 Vietnamese and nine Thais this year was still a long way from reality.

"It is still very remote," he said.

However, the Thai government said it had instituted emergency procedures in the area where the girl died and was conducting special tests on samples from her and her mother to determine what they died of.

"There is no evidence of transmission from human to human at the moment," said Dr. Charal Trinvuthipong, head of the ministry's Department of Disease Control.

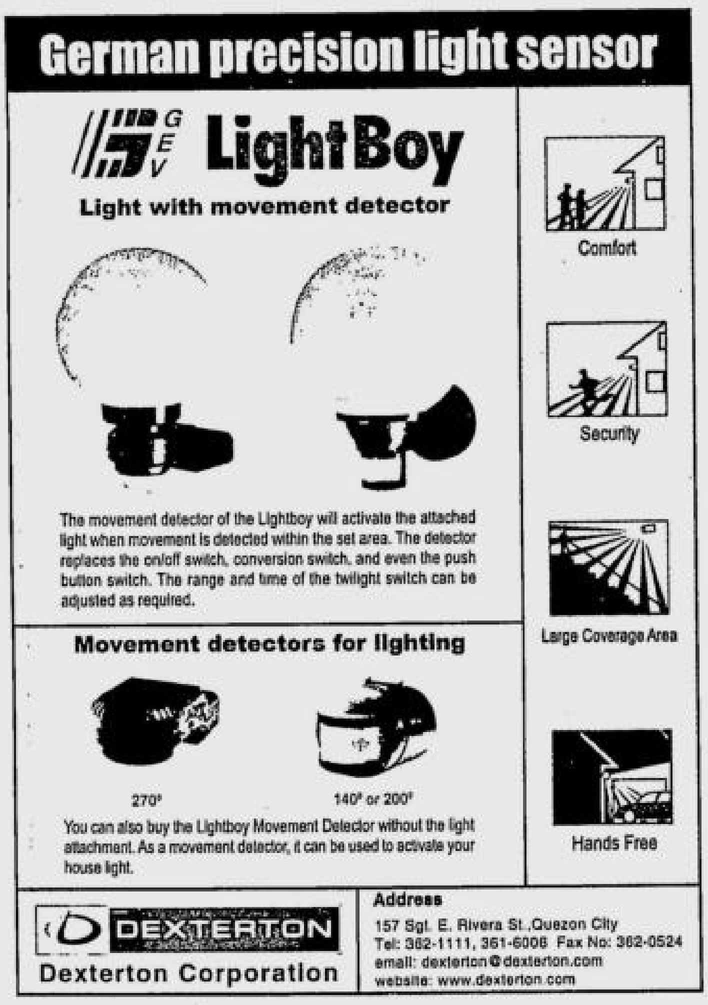
It would take about another week before special tests on the mother, whose body was injected with formalin to preserve it, could determine her cause of death, he said.

Tests were also being carried out on the girl, from whom samples were taken before her cremation, he said. *Reuters*

IWATA DURABLE & RELIABLE ALMOST 20 YEARS IN THE MARKET NOW
TIME RECORDERS, PROJECTORS & FANS
P9,500.00 6-Col. Time Card
E2A - 2color ribbon, int/ext melody, operates during brown-outs
CW-1A P12,850 / CH-1A P9,300
LAMINATORS 12" - P6,350 / 15" - P7,650
Sole Distributor COLENT ENTERPRISE CO.
Suite 200 Del Monte Mansion Bldg., Del Monte Ave. cor Speaker Perez St., Quezon City TELS. 740-3815,742-8139, 412-4317, 411-2395 to 98, 411-7157, 414-9890 Fax 411-2399 E-mail colent@sli.com.ph
DIGITAL CLOCK
OPERATES DURING BROWN-OUTS
ANALOG CLOCK
HAND SEALER 8" - P575 4" - P470
IWATA-1E P4,895
IWATA INDUSTRIAL FAN
TEW PUSH BUTTON P3,950(R) P5,300 AUTOMATIC P6,200
RECHARGEABLE SPOTLIGHT 250,000 C.P. P899 500,000 C.P. P909 1 MILLION C.P. P1,099
14" FOOT SEALER P5,900
HEAVY DUTY 3 STEEL BLADES 30" Diameter P3,890

EMBARRASSED by BAD BREATH?
It's amazing breakthrough in medical technology Therabreath System™ a U.S. product effectively eliminates *bad breath, bitter/ sour taste, phlegm in throat, pasty saliva, post natal drip, awful morning breath.*
Bad Breath is caused by sulfur producing bacteria on your tongue & throat not in stomach or sinus.
That's why mouthwashes and capsules don't really work.
Free use of *Halimeter* to detect the source of bacteria and monitoring bad breath condition.
Free delivery w/in Metro Manila
Money back guarantee
Tel: 890-8380; 895-5532; 897-2486
Cel# 09177965859

why Beauty Loan Wait..? We advance the cash to get the look you've wanted
Now you have all the reason to get what you've always wanted done!
•Nose Lift •Liposuction •Breast Augmentation
•Botox •Hair Regrow •Health Club Membership
•Face Lift •Skin Whitening •Weight Reduction/Tummy Tuck
•Cosmetic Dental Services
Get treated by your preferred physician or by our accredited doctors & clinics
Beauty Loan Business Briefing every Thursdays 5pm by accredited Doctors
Call: 634-4236 / 631-1678 / 634-0889 or Text: 0917-7OOLOAN (5626) 0917-8GLOBAL(45625)
Beauty Loan Agents Welcome Suite 3107 Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City


German precision light sensor
LightBoy
Light with movement detector
The movement detector of the Lightboy will activate the attached light when movement is detected within the set area. The detector replaces the on/off switch, conversion switch, and even the push button switch. The range and time of the twilight switch can be adjusted as required.
Movement detectors for lighting
You can also buy the Lightboy Movement Detector without the light attachment. As a movement detector, it can be used to activate your house light.
DEXTERTON Dexterton Corporation
Address
157 Sgt. E. Rivera St.,Quezon City
Tel: 362-1111, 361-6006 Fax No: 362-0524
email: dexterton@dexterton.com
website: www.dexterton.com

Brother of UK hostage in Iraq slams Blair anew

LONDON—The brother of Kenneth Bigley, a British engineer held hostage in Iraq for 12 days, slammed Prime Minister Tony Blair Monday as a weak politician who did not have sufficient credibility to negotiate properly.

"Mr. Blair is a gentleman, he's a statesman if you like, but I'm afraid to say, his sell-by date has really gone," Paul Bigley said of the premier.

"He has not got the credibility to negotiate the purchase of a bicycle," he told BBC radio from the Netherlands, where he lives and works.

Bigley's relatives have repeatedly lambasted Blair and his government for not doing enough to try and free the Briton, captured in Baghdad along with two American co-workers, both of whom have already been executed.

On Sunday, Paul Bigley said he had received information that his brother was still alive.

He told BBC radio on Monday that he was not proposing a deal with the Tawhid wal Jihad (Unity and Holy War) group holding his brother, who have demanded the release of female prisoners held by US forces in Iraq, simply better communication.

"Of course, you should never negotiate with the terrorists," Paul Bigley said.

"I've never, ever, ever, ever, in all my communications suggested that anybody, in particular a governmental person, negotiate with these people. What I'm asking for is communication."

The continued uncertainty over Bigley's safety is helping to keep the issue of Iraq in the headlines just when Blair would rather concentrate on other matters.

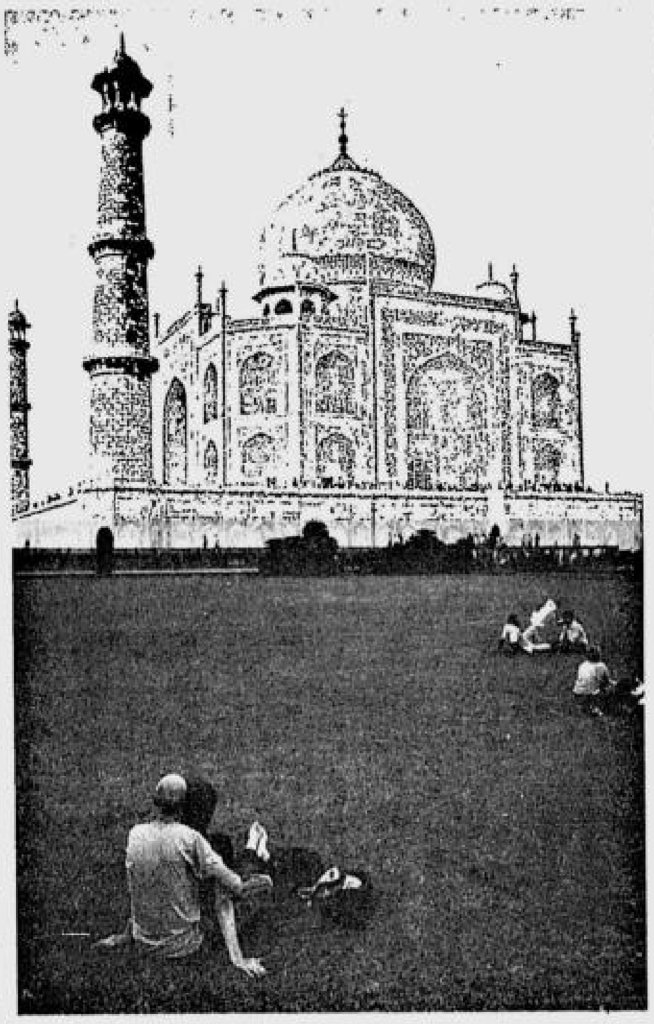
The prime minister is in the southern English resort town of Brighton this week for the annual conference of his ruling Labor Party, a gathering he had hoped would mainly be a chance to boast of domestic achievements ahead of a general election expected next year.

Among efforts launched to help Bigley, a delegation of British Muslims has traveled to Baghdad in an attempt to plead with the kidnappers.

On Monday, the secretary general of the Muslim Council of Great Britain said he was confident his delegation had managed to make at least indirect contact with the hostage-takers.

"We have achieved the objective of getting the message across to the key people in Baghdad—the political, religious and community leaders," Iqbal Sacranie told BBC radio.

"They were quite helpful in conveying the same very message themselves to the people who are holding Mr. Bigley." *AFP*



350 YEARS' MONUMENT TO LOVE

Tourists look at the Taj Mahal in Agra, India, Sept. 26. India celebrates the 350th anniversary of its most famous monument, the Taj Mahal, on Monday, though historians can't agree on its precise age and fears of damaging the enormous white marble structure have dampened plans to mark the event. AP

Swiss reject easy citizenship for immigrants' kin

GENEVA—Swiss voters on Sunday rejected controversial reforms that would have made it easier for children and grandchildren of immigrants to gain citizenship in the country, final results showed.

The poll followed a campaign marked by virulent antiforeigner advertising by right-wing opponents that triggered condemnation from the rest of the country's main political parties.

Fifty-two percent of Swiss voters rejected draft legislation, which had been passed by the Swiss parliament, granting automatic citizenship to the grandchildren of immigrants.

Another government proposal easing citizenship procedures for the children of foreigners who have settled and been schooled in Switzerland was rejected by 57 percent of Swiss voters.

Official results from the 23 full cantons also indicated a split between the country's main linguistic communities, with mainly rural German-speaking eastern areas of Switzerland rejecting the reform and most francophone western regions clearly approving it.

More moderate opponents also feared that local communities would lose some of their say in citizenship bids.

Claudio Micheloni of the Forum of Migrants Organizations blasted the outcome "was the result of a completely unacceptable campaign."

"The campaign preyed on the most negative aspects of humanity," he told Swiss television.

A lobby group for the children of immigrant families, IG-Secondos, said it was "disgusted" by the outcome.

"The Swiss are telling us 'you can pay and work, but you're not good enough to become Swiss,'" said IG-Secondos representative Valerie Lucchesi.

Immigrant communities and the country's main trade union grouping said they had filed a legal complaint about campaigning by members of the right-wing Swiss People's Party (SVP).

Leaflets and newspaper advertisements had warned of a massive growth in the Muslim population if the draft legislation had been approved.

Opponents had also used posters depicting the hands of dark-skinned youngsters grabbing Swiss passports.

The SVP became the largest political party in the country at the general election last year with 27 percent of the vote, and is one of the four governing parties.

The bulk of its support is in the majority German speaking part of the country.

Hans Fehr, an SVP parliamentarian, said the legislation would have led to a sharp growth in the number of ex-Yugoslavs seeking Swiss citizenship.

"The population in most of the country understood that we would have been heading for a balkanization of Switzerland," he added.

Fehr said the result—the second rejection in 11 years—was neither the product of fear nor hatred of foreigners.

Politicians from other parties admitted they had underestimated their opponents after opinion polls last month had indicated a clear majority in favor of the reform, including a cut in residency requirements from 12 to eight years. *AFP*

Koizumi revamps Cabinet

TOKYO—Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro reshuffled his Cabinet on Monday to try to boost his popularity and give impetus to reform—particularly postal privatization—but the mix of familiar faces with relative unknowns raised some doubts about whether he would achieve those goals.

Heizo Takenaka, a key architect of many of Koizumi's economic reforms, retained his portfolio in charge of macroeconomics and, as expected, assumed a new post in charge of reform of the postal system—a centerpiece of Koizumi's agenda.

Takenaka gave up his portfolio in charge of financial services to his deputy, Tatsuya Ito, 43, but analysts said Ito's promotion was a clear signal there would be no backtracking on banking reforms.

Finance Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki, Trade Minister Shoichi Nakagawa, chief Cabinet secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda and Internal Affairs and Communications Minister Taro Aso all retained their posts.

Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi, who is not a member of parliament and had been criticized for her lack of clout, was replaced by Nobutaka Machimura, 59, a former education minister who is close to the prime minister.

Koizumi needs to quash opposition inside his own party to reforms such as postal privatization and to boost his personal support ratings as he enters what are likely to be his last two years in office.

While there was no sign that Koizumi had caved in to antireformers by granting them posts, some analysts questioned whether the new lineup would have the desired impact.

"There's nothing here to gain popularity that anyone can see," said Steven Reed, a political scientist at Chuo University.

"It includes no well-known antireformers... but there is no visible clout."

A relatively unknown politician, Yoshinori Ohno, 68, will take over as defense minister, a vital position as Japan expands its global security role.

Hidehisa Otsuji, an upper house LDP member, took over the health, labor and welfare portfolio which must manage reform of the state pensions system, creaking under an aging population. *Reuters*

Elegance Sa puso ko!
Donna Cruz
DONNA CRUZ
ACTRESS / SINGER / HOMEMAKER
Available at Leading Dept. Stores & Houseware Outlets Nationwide
Exclusively Distributed by H-Star Enterprises, Inc. Tel # 638-7040/43 to 46 • Fax # 638-7039 • e mail rjr@pacific.net.ph • www.hstar.ph.com
Enamel Porcelain
Non-Stick
Stainless Steel
Sizzling Plate
Mini BBQ Grill
Gas stove
Ironing Board
Strainers
Wood Products
Water Dispenser

Pakistan kills al-Qaida top official

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan claimed Monday it had dealt al-Qaida a crushing blow after the killing of a top official said to have masterminded two attempts on President Pervez Musharraf's life.

Amjad Farooqi was also a key suspect in the kidnap-murder of US journalist Daniel Pearl and had helped hide the alleged chief plotter of the Sept. 11 attacks in the US, security officials said.

He was shot dead during a two-hour gun battle at his hideout on Sunday morning, Information Minister Sheikh Rashid said.

"Farooqi's elimination is a crushing blow to the al-Qaida network in Pakistan because he was the man who had been providing al-Qaida terrorists with the manpower to carry out attacks," a senior security official said.

Farooqi was closely associated with a Libyan militant called Abu Faraj Farj who has been identified as al-Qaida's new operations chief, the official said on condition of anonymity.

Farooqi, 30, had been indicted over the murder in early 2002 of Wall Street Journal reporter Pearl. He was one of four men who kidnapped Pearl in Karachi on Jan. 25 and allegedly recruited the trio who slit his throat around a week later, according to investigators.

Musharraf has named Farooqi the mastermind of attempts to kill him last December but the militant had evaded a massive nationwide manhunt for nine months.

A mobile phone call intercepted by intelligence agencies earlier this month led them to his new hideout in Nawabshah town 270 km north of Karachi, said Karachi's chief police investigator Fayyaz Leghari. *AFP*

Elite
Mitho Plus
Optimo
Silver Jet

A MUST IN EVERY BUSINESS!
We Offer
The World's Most Trusted
High Pressure Washers
& Vacuum Cleaners!
* Hose Reel Optional
With AFTER SALES SERVICE
FROM THE 1 IN HIGH PRESSURE WASHERS
Exclusively Distributed By:
CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL INCORPORATED
Major Credit Cards Accepted. Deferred Payments Up To 24 Mos.
MAIN OFFICE:1851 M.Orosa St., Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos.: 5244328 • 5240529 • 5245290
QUEZON CITY BRANCHES: 646 Quezon Ave. Tel. 7490581 • 7493709
162 Del Monte Ave. Nr. Cor. Roosevelt Ave. Tel. 4101086 • 3724429

TANO "YOUR PARTNER IN PRODUCT & SERVICE EXCELLENCE"
BILL COUNTERS
• Quiet Operation (<60 dB)
• W/ External Display
• Speed: 900 notes / min.
CHECK WRITERS
• 10-Digit • W/ calculator
• Perforated Printing
• Heavy Duty
LAMINATORS
• Variable Temperature
• 4 Heavy duty rollers
• Forward & reverse control
MIMEOGRAPHING MACHINE
• 120 copies per minute
• Electric & Manual Operation
• Adjustable Printing Position
• Preset Counter
PAPER SHREDDERS
• NS-C2X2 Shred size: 2x2mm
• NS-C2X6 Shred size: 2x6mm
• NS-C2X14 Shred size: 2x14mm
WIRE & PLASTIC BINDING MACHINES
Plastic Comb Binder
• 21 Holes / A4 size
• Adjustable Margin Depth
BUNDY CLOCKS
• Two color printing
• W/ Musical Melody
• Auto Card Feed
• Auto Column Shifting
• Back-up Power
• Heavy Duty
Wire Binder CB 200W
• 34 Holes / A4 size
Also Available: 40 holes / 14"
• 450 sheets binding capacity
• 25 sheets punching capacity
• 24 Holes
BH-C24 / C24D
BH-9810DA
CALL NOW AT: 8905310 • 8905320 • 8905327
8967764 • 8983431 • 8983432
E-mail ad.: sales@e-davidlink.com
Website: www.e-davidlink.com

ROYAL TOURS
2004 CHINESE EXPORT COMMODITIES
(GUANGZHOU TRADE FAIR)
(4 DAYS / 3 NIGHTS PACKAGE TOUR)
PHASE 1
OCTOBER 15-18
$478
4 Star Hotel in Guangzhou
VIA Philippine Airlines
Other Services Offered: INTERNATIONAL & DOMESTIC TOUR PACKAGES and PAL Domestic Ticketing Agent
Royal Vacation Holiday Travel & Tours
523 Remedios Street, Malate, Manila
Tels.: 524-9971 • 524-9987 • 521-6727 • 521-3288 Fax: 521-3288

Better be SAFE
than SORRY...

CS001
A125
A530

diplomat SAFE LTD
Distributed by:
ASTECH PENGSON DISTRIBUTORS INC
MANILA
833 Sheridan Street Mandaluyong City
Tel. No. 634 8351 to 59
Fax No. 633-2572 / 643 8722
CEBU
Castillex Compound
Mandaue Cebu City
Telefax: (032) 344-1186
DAVAO
Ground Flr. Villa Abrille Bldg.
C.M. Recto cor. Jacinto Sts.
Davao City
Telefax: (082) 221-0565

polymutan
GERMAN-MADE
IT'S TOUGH.
IT'S LEAK PROOF.
IT'S STRICTLY GERMAN...

Polymutan Fusion Weld Pipe systems are 100% MADE IN GERMANY using only German technology and premium polypropylene virgin plastic from start to finish--your assurance of world class excellence.

Polymutan is ideal for a wide range of hot and cold water applications and costs much less than other fusion weld pipes of comparable quality so you get REAL value for your money. Try it to believe it.

DISTRIBUTED BY:
CAMP MARKETING & DEVELOPMENT, INC.
204 D. Tuazon St. corner Sta. Catalina St., Quezon City Philippines
Tel. nos.: 741-9145 / 740-0046 / 741-5401
Cebu: Phoenix Building System: 3rd Flr., JOA Bldg. Northroad 6, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City
Tel. No. (032)2331101
LEAK PROOF

CIE
The School for Leaders
in cooperation with
UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE
International Examinations
CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATE PARTNER

The time has come that we Filipinos must put our acts together.

Top caliber speakers will be discussing relevant topics which are gears that will generate a strong strategic foundation for national economic recovery.

Engaging People's Vision with National Strategies
by Undersecretary Abraham Purugganan
The Acting Officer-in-Charge of the Office of the Presidential Adviser for Special Concerns

The Engine of Change: Entrepreneurship
by Prof. Nelia Cruz Sarcol
A successful and noted Guru in Social Entrepreneurship; first Filipino to be awarded by the Texas Asian Chamber of Commerce, USA, for innovation and achievement in Entrepreneurship and first Filipino recipient of the International Distinguished Women's Award from Northwood University, USA, for outstanding achievement in advancing international education in Asia. The AIM Alumni Association during their grand home coming gave the Honor and Prestige Award to Prof. Nelia Cruz Sarcol.

Generative Management in the Projectized Society
by Prof. Jens Peter Jensen
Internationally acclaimed for his extensive consultative work in Project Management Development, execution and training specially in Europe, Asia, Africa and the USA

A National English Language Agenda
by Prof. Juan R. Banquicio Jr.
A graduate of the Harvard Graduate School of Education Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, co-founder of the National Educators Academy of the Philippines, and a World Bank Scholar

Strategic Plans for Philippine Tourism
by Secretary Joseph Ace Durano
One of the youngest Congressmen ever elected to office and a committed leader from Cebu- who has recently been appointed to the position of Secretary of the Department of Tourism

Key to Sustainable Implementation: Competent and Internationally-Accredited Project Managers
by Prof. Margaret Sinclair Hunt
A Management Specialist from Cambridge International Examinations and author of University of Cambridge published professional and text books on management

The Dream of Becoming: The People's Vision of Hope
by Dr. Onofre Pagsanghan
A multi-awarded artist, playwright, composer and teacher; recepient of the Metrobank 10 Outstanding Educators Award for Excellence, Gawad Geny Lopez Jr. Bayaning Pilipino, Gawad CCP Para sa Sining, teaches the Honors Class of Ateneo de Manila High School

presents a forum on
THE "PEARL" PRINCIPLE:
Tools and Strategies Towards National Economic Recovery
September 29, 2004 at the InterContinental Hotel Makati - Grand Ballroom

This is a one-day public forum which aims to consult, discuss and obtain people's insights on the current problems besetting the nation and, given such scenarios, explore how we can be part of the solution.

"The "Pearl" Principle" is highly recommended for representatives of IT as well as Travel and Tourism companies and associations, telecom corporations, construction companies, non-government organizations, people's organizations, government agencies, local government units, GOCCs, higher education instutions, media, development managers, general managers, HR managers, college students, officers of student councils and MBA students.

All training fees are sponsored by CIE so come and take advantage of this opportunity.

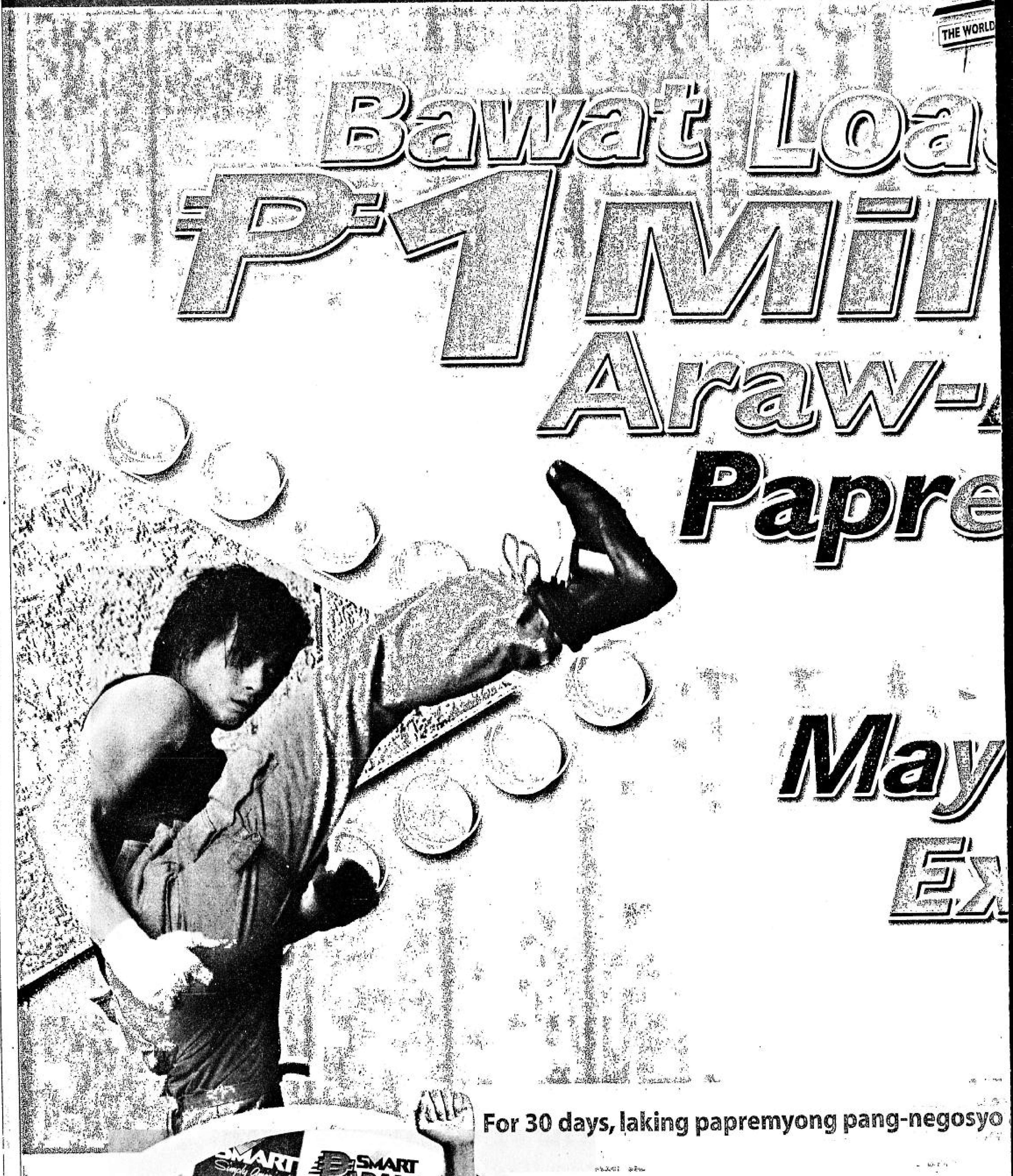
Scholarships on Project Management, Travel and Tourism and Entrepreneurship courses, as well as laptop computers, will be raffled off.

Registration starts at 7:30 a.m. Please bring your IDs and calling cards to facilitate your registration.

Slots are limited. For early reservation please call tel. no. **887-2828** or **0927-2332496** or email the_pearl@cie.edu

Centre for International Education
CEBU CAMPUS : 168 Pres. Magsaysay St., Kasambagan, Cebu City 6000 Tel. no. 63.32.233.2522 | 63.32.233.2577 info@cie.edu
MAKATI CAMPUS: 28th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City Tel. no. 63.2.887.2828 | 63.2.753.2828 cie.alce@cie.edu

Mula sa SMART—ang tanging nagbibigay
ng mga matitinding serbisyo tulad ng


THE WORLD
Bawat Loa
P1 Mil
Araw-
Papre
May
Ex

For 30 days, laking papremyong pang-negosyo

SMART Simply Amazing!
SMART PADALA CENTER
SMART
You have won P1,000,000!

Wow!
Pwede na akong magpatayo ng sarili kong SMART Padala Center!

Kaya Register To
Baka Ikaw Na Ang

Sa bawat load mo ng SMART Buddy Load o Talk 'N Text Load, panalo

To register, key in
MILYON space
REG space
<Full Name>* <Address>*
<Birthday–mmddyyyy >*
<Gender–M or F>

MILYON REG
Mica Cruz*
12 Sta. Cruz St.,
Manila*03191981*
F

Send to 270.

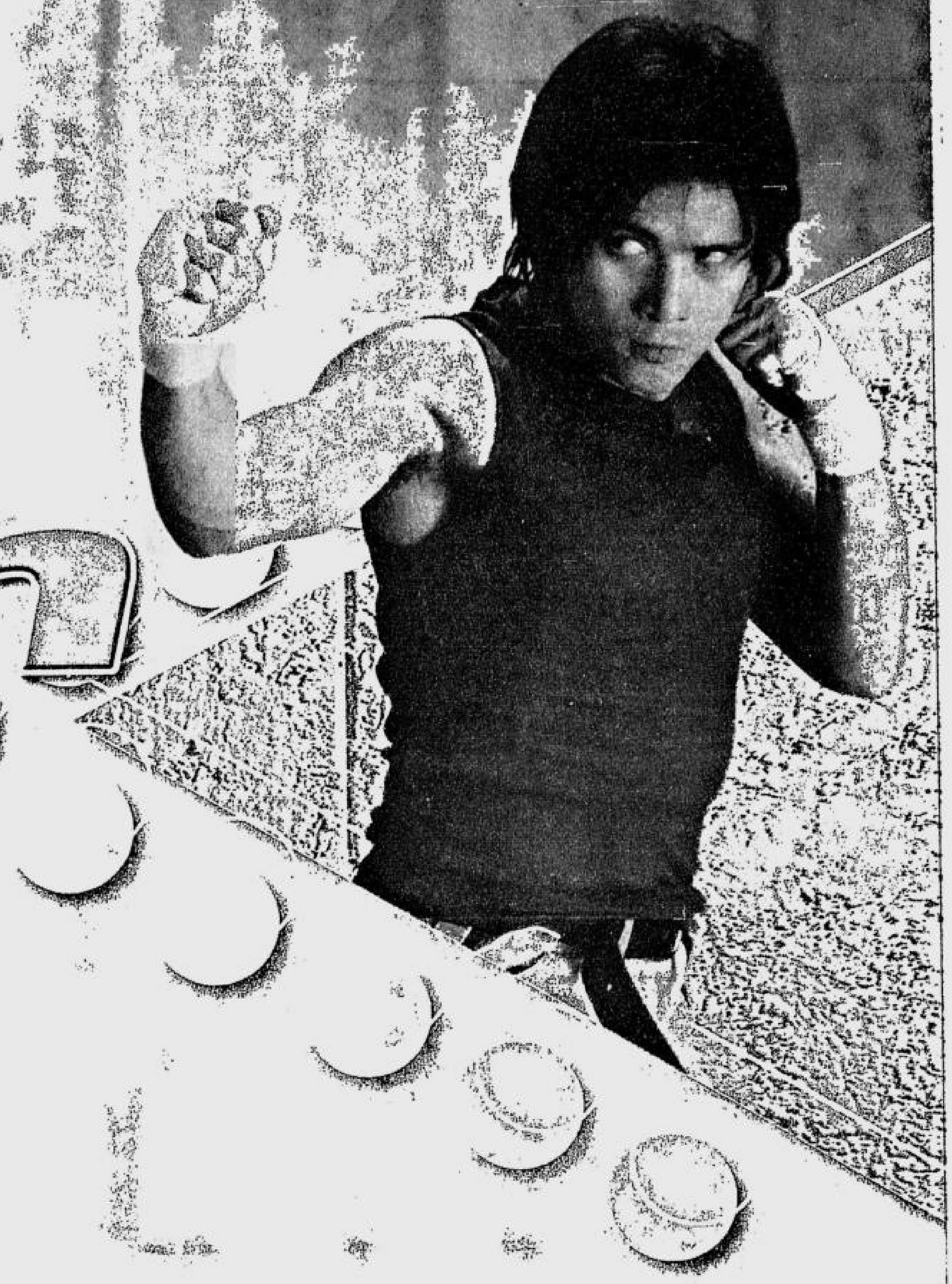
(Registration is FREE. *Non-registration will make entries invalid.*)

To check the number of raffle entries earned, key in MILYON ENTRY.
(Cost is P2.50 per inquiry)

MILYON ENTRY

Send to 270.

SMART
PADALA
'S FIRST INTERNATIONAL CASH REMITTANCE THROUGH TEXT



d*,
lion
Araw
emyo!

10%
xtra Load Pa!

at extra load na pang-connect sa pamilya mo dito man o abroad! *WINNER KA SA SMART!*

oin At Load-up Na Araw-Araw!
Susunod Na SMART Milyonaryo!

ka! May 10% extra load ka na--FREE, meron ka pang raffle entry para sa P1 Milyong papremyo araw-araw!

70

70

SMART Load Denomination	10% Extra Load	Raffle Entries Earned
Php 30	₱ 3.00	1 entry
Php 60	₱ 6.00	3 entries
Php 115	₱ 12.00	10 entries
Php 200	₱ 20.00	20 entries

*Available only for:

Buddy Load

Talk 'N Text Load

SMART Padala Transactions will not earn raffle entries.

SMART
Simply Amazing!

See posters and flyers for details.
Promo is from September 25 to October 24, 2004.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2107, Series of 2004.

For questions, comments, or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, *888 using your SMART celfone, send a text message to 888 (P1.00 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation), e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

ISSN 0116-2642
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Vol. 19 No. 293
Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

OPINION

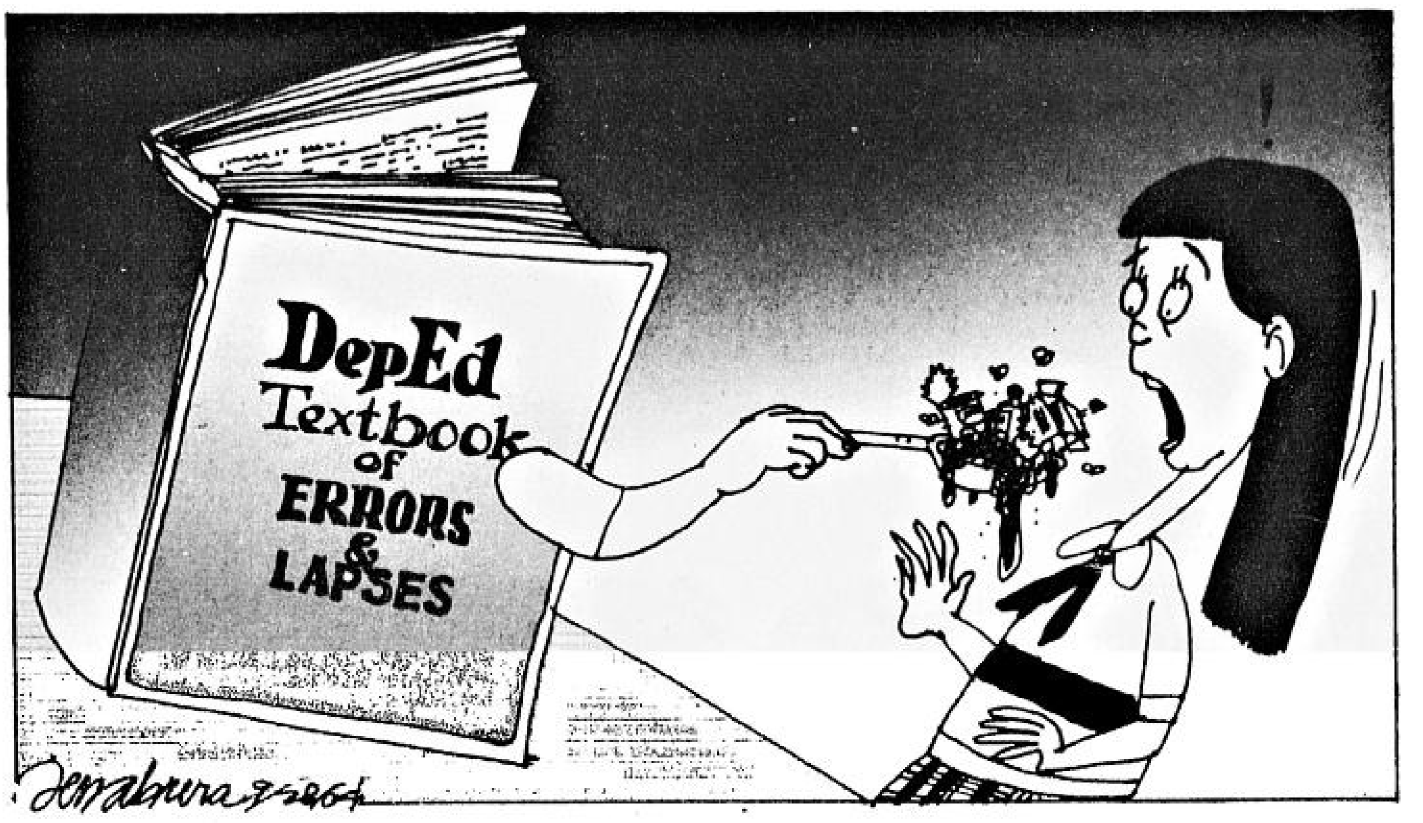
Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•100% soy ink•

Publisher **ISAGANI YAMBOT**
Editor in Chief **LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC**
Managing Editor **JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO**
Associate Editor **ABELARDO S. ULANDAY**
Associate Editor for Readership **ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO**
News Editor **ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR.** • *Chief, News Day Desk* **NILO B. PAUROM**
Opinion Editor **JORGE V. ARUTA**
National Editor **PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.**
City Editor **GERRY LIRIO**
Senior Desk Editor **JUAN V. SARMIENTO JR.**
Editorial Consultant **AMANDO DORONILA**
Chief Photographer **ERNIE U. SARMIENTO**
Art & Design Director **LYNETT A. VILLARIBA**

Board Chairman **MARIXI R. PRIETO**
President **ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **RENATO R. REINOSO**
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services **DAVID O. VALDES**
VP for Advertising **FELIPE R. OLARTE**
AVP for Circulation **GLORIA P. LARDIZABAL**

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.



Unfinished business

EDITORIAL

PERHAPS law enforcement authorities are bloating figures and blowing smoke, but in the past two years we have been hearing with some regularity about government operations producing progressively bigger hauls of illegal drugs especially methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu.

In December 2002, the police claimed to have discovered 656 kilos of shabu and almost 400 kilos of ingredients for its manufacture in a warehouse in Valenzuela City that had been razed by fire. Authorities described the laboratory as the biggest they had ever found in the country and the seized shabu as their biggest haul ever, with an estimated street value of P2.2 billion.

Less than a year later, in November 2003, the Philippine National Police Anti-Illegal Drugs Task Force raided another warehouse in Valenzuela and seized P1 billion worth of high-grade shabu and chemicals used in its manufacture. The task force chief, then PNP Deputy Director General Edgardo Aglipay, said the estimated value of the drugs and could exceed P3 billion after a complete inventory was done.

On Friday last week, the police reported yet another record illegal drug haul, after conducting a series of raids on two shabu laboratories and a warehouse in Mandaue City. Police found in the three places some 675 kilos of high-grade shabu, estimated to be worth P1.3 billion, and enough chemicals to produce 7.5 tons more of the same drug, which would have fetched some P15 billion in the streets. Aglipay, who is now PNP chief, and Director Anselmo Avenido of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency again described the drug bust as the biggest ever in this country.

In between these three huge drug busts, the authorities mounted at least 20 other raids on suspected shabu factories and storehouses resulting in the confiscation of hundreds of millions of pesos worth of shabu and drug-making equipment and the arrest of dozens of suspects involved in the manufacture and distribution of the illegal drug. All together, this string of successes makes the anti-drug campaign one of the proudest achievements of the PNP and the PDEA if not the Arroyo administration.

In fact, the Cebu based-drug operations were so huge and apparently so extensive that American and regional drug enforcement agencies are sending teams to find out more about them. What may be of special interest to some foreign governments is that, aside from three Filipinos, those caught in the raid were three Chinese, two Taiwanese, two Malaysians and a British national. This has led authorities to suspect that Cebu was being used as the manufacturing hub by a multi-national drug syndicate engaged in the international trafficking of shabu.

While the government keeps chalking up one spectacular success after another in its anti-drug campaign, victory is not close at hand. The making of and trafficking in illegal drugs do not only continue but also keep flourishing and expanding.

The problem apparently is that the PNP and the PDEA have had very little success in dismantling the drug syndicates completely. Even the biggest police operations have led to the capture of just a few laboratory workers, assistants and drivers. Very few big-time financiers and distributors as well as their protectors in the police or in government have ever been exposed. And yet it is well-known to authorities that operations of the magnitude they have uncovered so far cannot be sustained without a wide network of suppliers, distributors and protectors both here and abroad.

The Mandaue-based shabu operations, for instance, probably involved scores of people on both the supply and distribution ends. But only 11 people are in police custody so far. Where are the other members of the local network? Where are the brains and the financiers?

The ringleaders would not have been so foolish as to risk billions without first buying official protection to ensure free and unhampered operations. So who among the local and police officials were giving them protection?

In a tiny city like Mandaue, how could such a massive operation go on for months without local authorities knowing about it? How could such a well-funded syndicate operate right under their very noses unless they agreed to smell no evil and see no evil.

The police and the PDEA cannot rest until all these questions are satisfactorily answered and everyone involved is caught and charged. Otherwise, it will just keep boasting about ever bigger drug busts without contributing much to really solving the drug menace.

Padlocking looted stables

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

HAVE we, as a people, developed into state-of-the-art the hoary practice of padlocking stables long after the horses have bolted?

To rein in the runaway debts of government-owned or -controlled corporations, Senator Richard Gordon suggests: create a "Senate-House oversight committee." An early warning system could abort future debt splurges by state firms.

The GOCCs seem to buy red ink by the barrel. In 2003 alone, 30 of them racked up P140.2 billion in losses. Over the years, uncontrolled borrowing resulted in almost a third of today's P3.36 trillion debt. Bankruptcy is around the corner

The Constitution vests the "power of the purse" in Congress. That power includes oversight. But why did this charter-mandated watchdog never bark when the GOCCs hocked the family silver over the years?

Eleven University of the Philippines-School of Economics professors had to hit the alarm button first. Only then, did Congress scramble for ways to bolt down near-empty tills. So, where was the watchdog?

For an answer, recall how the "Brat Pack"—54 brash congressmen from Eduardo Cojuangco's Nationalist People's Coalition—"exercised budgetary oversight."

The GOCCs then were already snapping up loans that stoked today's fiscal crisis. But Reps. Gilberto Teodoro, Crispin Remulla, Francis Escudero, Ace Durano (now tourism secretary), Constantino Jaraula, "Wimpy" Fuentebella and the "Pack" could not be bothered. Instead, they tried to impeach an exemplary magistrate—on flimsy charges of fund misuse.

Of all people, why Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide? "In the culture of the gangland, Hilario Davide Jr. is a negative example," INQUIRER's Randy David rightly noted: "He does not know how to grovel. He is clear-sighted and uncompromising, and is not fearful about losing his job."

The Davide Court, in fact, ruled adversely against businessman Eduardo' Cojuangco in the P100-billion coconut levy scandal, saying these were public funds. The Court thereby fractured the First Commandment of this country's *caciques*: "Thou shalt not touch our pocketbooks."

Audit Commission data confirmed scrupulous Court use of funds. "Professional accounting has shown that it is (the Court's impeachers) who are innumerate," Today editor Teodoro Locsin Jr. wrote then. To that, Sun-Star added : "Innumerate is an elegant word for mental retardation. It displays inability to conclude that two plus two equals four."

The impeachment fizzled, but not before shoving the country to the brink of a constitutional crisis. As the "Brat Pack" crumbled into the dustbin, they piously mumbled: they merely exercised Congress' budgetary oversight power.

Nonsense, snorted columnist Amando Doronila. It was a "brutal oligarchy on the rampage." Watchdogs that turn into lapdogs don't bark. They circle godfather's wagon instead.

Media also hit the alarm button late over GOCCs running amok, a 2004 Cebu Press Freedom Week forum noted. In pre-UP Eleven days, coverage of GOCCs was patchy at best. The congressmen's "escort girls" or noonday soaps did get more exposure.

So, did we, in the press, flub as one of society's "early warning systems"? The Constitution, after all, vests on media freedoms granted no one else. In return, the press is expected to serve as a watchdog for the common weal.

The problems that bug the media are not excuses. But ossified concepts of rigid news beats do obstruct coverage. So do mind-sets straight-jacketed into the traditional "5-Ws" of spot stories. All thoughtful editors have on their agenda of unfinished business: "Unreported Stories"—those on basic change, its causes and consequences.

"We need to examine a function that is barely touched on, namely: the press as an early warning system," Cebu Daily News noted in a September 2001 editorial.

That question festers abroad too, as may be seen in the American Journalism Review analysis to determine: Did the press raise alarm signals before the crumbing of corporate giants like Enron, Lucent and Cisco?

The press "behaved pro-cyclically and did not discharge its role as society's watchdog," the AJR study concluded. "The surprising thing was journalism's lack of memory."

Despite electronic archives, even respected papers made little use of their own research. "One is struck by what their own reporters uncovered," it adds. "But within their news organizations, their insights were drowned out in a cacophony of naïve reporting."

TV uncritically allowed exposure-hungry "analysts" time. Few asked hard questions or bothered about credentials." Journalists tend to follow the herd instinct and easily become victims of collective bias."

Today's debt quagmire underscores the need for reviewing systems when watchdogs fail to bark. Trip-wire devises can spot emerging problems. They buy time for corrective measures.

Pagasa bulletins alert us to typhoons and volcanic eruptions. Banks are cobbling systems to tamp down financial risks to "keep afloat when the winds change."

But creating an oversight committee merely shuffles institutional furniture around. It will not change the "gangland culture" that pervades among our "leaders."

Will the all-too-real threat of economic collapse finally jolt leaders into reality? Should it come to that, perhaps the press will hit those trip-wire sensors earlier.

(E-mail : juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph)

Equations

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IT'S a reminder that needs to be made again and again. Recovering ill-gotten wealth is not the end in itself, it is the means to an end. The point is to use it for the public good. Specifically, to promote justice, the one thing martial law obliterated. Recovering the wealth the crooks stole from the people is just the first part of business. The second part is giving it back to them.

That hasn't happened, least of all under President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, as a group called Partnership for Agrarian Reform (PAR) revealed. Last week, during the 32nd anniversary of martial law, it showed how exactly the GMA government has been using the money it has gotten back from Ferdinand Marcos.

That money stood at P38 billion early this year. That was to be divided into P8 billion for the martial law victims and P30 billion for land reform. A meritorious arrangement. Of course, all Filipinos, except the Marcos cronies, were victims of martial law. But some were more victims than others. Indeed, what made the torture victims exceptionally deserving of compensation was not just that they suffered the most, but that they did the most to free this country from its chains. That was why they suffered the most, because they raised a hand against tyranny, often when there was no one else to do it.

That the rest of the money would go to land reform made sense just as well. The "people" are preponderantly the poor, and the poor, who are to be found particularly among tenants and sharecroppers, have had one burning cry throughout the ages—to own the land they till.

The compensation of the martial law victims has not happened. The martial law victims may have won the battle of the court, but they have not won the battle of the count. To this day, they have not gotten their due, and only God, or GMA, knows when they will get it. The wheels of justice have been known to grind slowly, but in this case they do not grind at all.

The second—the portion that should go to land reform—has been used sparingly for land reform. The Presidential Agrarian Reform Council Agreement of August 2003 stipulates that 70 percent of the P30 billion would go to acquire and distribute lands and 30 percent to "high-impact interventions that will reach a greater number of beneficiaries." The GMA government has already used P6 billion and allocated another P6 billion.

Of the first P6 billion, P2.7 billion has been given to Land Bank in partial payment of its land acquisition activities, P2.2 billion for support services, P544 million for GMA Rice program, P544 for irrigation projects of the NIA, P30 million for coconut processing. Of the second P6 billion, P3 billion has been set for land acquisition and distribution, P1 billion for net cash allotment, and P2 billion for automatic payment of bonds.

Three things are wrong with this use of the Marcos money.

First, of the P12 billion that has been spent or allocated, only the P2.7 billion and P3 billion for land acquisition and distribution clearly follow the PARC agreement. The others go beyond the 30 percent ceiling for support services and most of them do not qualify as high-impact interventions anyway. Certainly, giving P30 million to a private firm to process coconut is entirely unjustifiable.

Second, the P12 billion, which is 40 percent of the P38 billion recovered Marcos loot, has been spent or allocated in a record eight months, from February to September this year. At this rate, nothing will be left of the money by the end of next year. Indeed, the way GMA has been using the Marcos money, the torture victims may seriously wonder if they will get compensated at all. Agreements do not seem to have a binding effect on their President.

This raises a related issue, which is: The use of the Marcos money has been left nearly entirely to the President's discretion. She may or may not follow the PARC agreement as she pleases. Indeed, she may or may not follow the law as she pleases. There is no transparency, or accounting, in the uses of the funds. That is particularly worrisome in light of one important thing. Which is the PCGG's disclosure that from 1986 to 2003, the government has recovered an additional P22 billion from the Marcoses. This money has not been accounted for to this day. Malacañang has yet to show which agency, or pocket, or quicksand it has gone to.

That brings us to the most important issue of all, which is, whether the billions of pesos that have already been spent have actually gone to where they appear on paper. PAR does not suggest a reason for the speed with which GMA used up the bulk of the recovered Marcos wealth, but we know that the period from February to first week of May was the campaign period. And we know that the period afterward was one where debts, of the political rather than financial kind, had to be paid.

We have at least Frank Chavez to give evidence about how a portion of that money went to finance GMA's campaign. He may be entirely right when he says, that is but the tip of the iceberg. GMA spared no government agency to raise a sum with which to pay a king's ransom, or in this case to buy a queen's continued stay on a throne. It is inconceivable she did not think of the Marcos loot first.

Recovering ill-gotten wealth is not unlike raising taxes or making suggestions of pooling scant resources to avert economic disaster. That is all very well, but raising money is just the first part of the equation. Spending it wisely is the second.

In this country, the second is clearly the harder thing to do.

Pols should stay out of rebel issue

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

PRESIDENTIAL adviser Carolina Hernandez, a member of the Feliciano Commission that investigated the July 2003 uprising, is absolutely right: the politicians and Magdalo lawyers ought to stay out of the amnesty issue. In fact, the politicians ought to stay out of the rebel officers' issue altogether. President Macapagal-Arroyo has already indicated that while she is accepting their apology, their case will continue to be prosecuted and they will face court martial. Many of us welcome the President's clarity of vision in this regard, and we hope she would not allow herself to be pulled here and there, and let the process run its full course. This will ensure justice for all concerned.

* * *

Many citizens have been deeply affected by the senseless killing of Jose Luis Villanueva, 29, associate business editor of "Today," at the hands of three hoodlums after he refused to surrender his cell phone to them aboard a midnight bus. What made his death doubly tragic was that this scion of a prominent family, who studied at Fordham University in New York prior to entering the journalism profession, succumbed to a fatal neck wound inflicted by a Rommel Capones, reportedly a recidivist facing several criminal charges in various courts. According to Today, with the help of his lawyer, Capones was able to post bail in a murder case that was downgraded to homicide. He is also an accused in several robbery and homicide cases pending in other salas. Alas, he is also out on bail in all of them.

A common complaint of lawmen is that they feel so frustrated because arrested criminals often end up roaming free on bail. Villanueva's tragic death should spur Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez to review the prosecution aspect of fighting criminality: Why are too many criminals are getting away with murder?

* * *

At a Manila Overseas Press Club forum, Senate President Franklin Drilon said that the Senate will hold on Oct. 22-23 a workshop on vital areas of the economy and identify immediate, medium and long-term goals. He promised that the senators will shed "our partisan sentiments" and that the Senate will suggest four tax measures, among them, the "sin taxes," the rationalization of fiscal incentives, and the general amnesty bill which will establish a "tax trail." Drilon noted that the Senate has already passed over 100 tax incentive laws and it is now time to rationalize them. He said it will also scrutinize the intelligence and confidential funds of various agencies, which add up to P1.3 billion, and how they are spent.

Queried if he would allow bigger cuts into the P907 billion budget for 2005, which he hopes to pass by February or March next year, Drilon stressed that it's already a "bare-bones budget." Only 10-15 percent of it goes to capital expenditures, and RP has one of the lowest allocations for social services in all of Asia, he said, adding, "We can only cut so much." Much will depend on Drilon's leadership.

* * *

Speaker Jose de Venecia advocated a major program to revive the mining industry, stressing that RP's external debt of $56.3 billion could easily be contained by our mineral wealth, estimated at $800 billion to one trillion dollars. He cited the enormous economic boon if this industry, which could involve China, Australia, Canada and the US as major players, were to be revived.

JDV's advocacy comes at a time when the mining industry, which has been always fraught with controversy, is in the doldrums. The magazine "BizNews Asia" of June, 2004 featured Tony Lopez's interview with Philip Romualdez, president and CEO of Benguet Corporation and of the Chamber of Mines, who opined that RP is one of the "most highly mineralized countries in the world," and yet, "we do not generate the dollars." He cited that the mining sector boomed in the '30s up to the '70s, and together with the sugar industry, kept the country moving forward; but today, despite the all-time high nickel prices, and copper's and gold's "strong potentials," investors are "somewhat on a holding pattern."

* * *

Romualdez attributes investors' hesitation to the uncertainty generated by a Supreme Court ruling, dated Jan. 27, 2004, which effectively nullified provisions of the 1995 Mining Act relative to Financial or Technical Assistance Agreements (FTAAs). As he pointed out, the SC decision is far-reaching in that it not merely annulled a contract between two parties, it also struck down a law that governs the entire mining industry. Romualdez fears that even though the industry has been steadily growing for the past three years—last year it exported nearly $550 million worth of minerals—the exploration funds could dry up because RP is viewed as a "negative mining destination." Part of that negative image has been aggravated by the fact that it takes at least three years, 105 signatures and a 21-step process just to get a mining permit! All told, it would take at least eight years to set up shop, he said, as he called for a "total restructuring of government mining policies."

* * *

In nullifying the FTAA of the Mining Act, the Supreme Court was split; but to my mind, this is merely reflective of the division in the nation's sentiment where its mining patrimony is concerned. On one hand, there's the business community pushing for the development of this industry, to generate badly-needed jobs and huge dollar revenues; on the other side are the many citizens validly fearful that the national patrimony guaranteed by the Constitution might be exhausted by "exploitative" foreign entities, leaving nothing for the Filipinos. Their concern arises from the finite nature of mineral wealth. Indeed, it's timely to take a second look at mining concerns.

Not just dioramas

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE MOST memorable visit I paid to the old Ayala Museum was sometime in the 1980s, when my late mother-in-law and my sisters-in-law came for a visit from the US with their families, and I accompanied them to the museum.

Since we had chosen not to avail of the services of a guide, I found myself explaining the dioramas—which dramatize 63 important events in Philippine history—to nieces and nephews whom I barely knew and who knew next to nothing about Philippine history. But the flow of the dioramas provided a structure and, more importantly, a point of view from which to tell the "story" of our country's past. I found myself absorbed in what some would call a "peak experience," as I recalled everything I knew about our history, looking at our past through "Filipino"—that is, nationalist—eyes.

To my pleasure and pride, my in-laws appeared to be just as fascinated with my recounting of Philippine history. One sister-in-law exclaimed afterwards that "I didn't even know that the Americans cheated us out of our independence from Spain!"

And that's why I've always been fond of the dioramas. When the re-development of Greenbelt commenced and the Museum closed its doors to the public temporarily, the first thing I asked was "where would the dioramas go?"

Well, the dioramas are back, in all their refurbished glory (cleaned of 30 years' worth of grime, says Ayala Museum history consultant and INQUIRER columnist Manolo Quezon) in a spanking new setting, the new Ayala Museum which stands a few meters from its original site, in a much more prominent location in Greenbelt.

* * *

THE OLD museum was a two-story affair (the library was found in the basement) with cramped display areas, mainly for the dioramas and the permanent art collection, and a gallery for temporary exhibits. There was also a small museum store and an even smaller café at the back. But it was a destination for us students, and later, young professionals, and much later, parents of young children, whenever we felt a hankering for "culture."

We found it especially gratifying that there was this oasis for quiet contemplation and nourishment of the intellect and spirit amid the bustle of the Makati Commercial Center. Today, the new Ayala Museum is still smack dab in the middle of the redeveloped and ritzy Greenbelt. If anything, it is even busier, connected to the rest of the mall by a walkway, inviting passersby to detour through their exhibits and stores or even pay a visit to the good old dioramas.

There is also so much more room in the new museum complex, which now consists of four stories, the Café and public areas on the ground floor, the "Diorama Experience" (including a multi-media presentation on postwar Philippine history until the Edsa revolt) on the second floor, and art exhibit spaces and training rooms on the third and fourth floor.

* * *

MANOLO Quezon already detailed the exciting new exhibits which mark the re-opening of the Ayala Museum in his column yesterday. I joined a press group on a tour yesterday and here are more impressions:

Only now do I appreciate the dioramas as artifacts in themselves, truly fine examples of Filipino craftsmanship. The figures—carved out of balsa wood by artists and wood-carvers from Paete—spring to life in amazing detail, from their facial expressions to the folds of their garments. Quezon pointed out that the artists were hard put to find models for some of the dioramas, particularly those requiring "Spanish" figures. So in the diorama on the blood compact, for instance, the monk, soldier and official standing behind Miguel Lopez de Legazpi were modeled on the three Zobel de Ayala cousins: Don Jaime, Don Enrique and Don Fernando. The "crowd" watching the execution of Rizal includes look-alikes of Carlos Quirino, who was the museum's first director, and the staff of the museum at that time.

Truly breathtaking is "Power + Faith + Image: Philippine Art in Ivory from the 16th to the 19th Centuries," an exhibit of ivory religious carvings and figures produced by Filipinos who had in the period covered by the exhibit, turned the country into the world's foremost source of Christian ivory images.

The setting is as powerful a presence as the figurines themselves, the walls inscribed with biblical passages, exhortations from religious leaders and sayings in popular local Catechism texts. Still, amid all the solemnity, I couldn't help allowing a bit of irreverence to sneak in. Studying the miniature figurines in ivory, I couldn't help recalling the miniature ivory (or maybe resin, by now) carvings from China depicting various sexual positions.

* * *

OF COURSE, I will return to the Ayala Museum, perhaps a week or so after its formal opening tomorrow. If for nothing else, I must return for a closer look at the other major opening exhibition, "Multiple Originals, Original Multiples: 19th Century Images of Philippine Costumes" that gathers for the first time the Damian Domingo watercolor album of Philippine costumes on loan from the Newberry Library in Chicago, the Justiniano Asuncion watercolor album in the New York Public Library and the Ayala Museum's own watercolor album attributed to Domingo's atelier or school.

Accompanying the illustrated fashions (their version of today's glossy magazines, I suppose) are rare samples of actual costumes from the 18th and 19th centuries which are being exhibited in public for the first time, mainly from the National Museum of Ethnology in Leiden, the Netherlands. Apart from the intricate and delicate embroidery, and the fancy wear that Filipino men adopted, what's notable about the costumes is how they're cut in such small proportions, indicating just how much tinier our ancestors were, before fast-food supersized us.

Outstanding Filipino

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

IN A UNIVERSE that seems to be running amok, and in the face of the increasing chaos we find in our lives, it's a relief we've got the Jose "Pitoy" Moreno tribute at the Cultural Center of the Philippines coming up. This, at least, is something positive—a recognition of an outstanding Filipino and his achievements.

Having known this fashion czar for more years than either he or I care to remember, you would expect that my stirring memories of him would be about clothes or fashion shows. However, my favorite image of Pitoy is of a man clinging to this huge tree on Roxas Blvd. that the Department of Public Works and Highways was hell bent on bulldozing to pave the way for the construction of an overpass. In one of the few triumphs of conservationists in this benighted country, the plan to construct the Roxas Blvd. overpass was scrapped and the tree was saved.

It's a good thing that the Cultural Center has realized there is art after all in design and fashion, even if purists would disagree. At some future time, perhaps, government will also realize that to give impetus and support for this sector, a textile industry is crucial. Otherwise we will be eternally parasitic, dependent on imported materials, thereby helping other country's industries rather than our own.

In the same manner that Farrales popularized the Moslem *malong*, Moreno illustrates through his work the ethnic diversity of the country. Influenced no doubt by the works of Damian Domingo, Fabian de la Rosa and Fernando Amorsolo that he came across as a fine arts student at the University of the Philippines, he has adopted indigenous materials and patterns, combining brilliant colors of turquoise, yellow, emerald green, royal blue and the most shocking of pinks—yet they never clash. Although in an industry where the uniform is a sea of black, Filipino designers usually celebrate color joyously. We are nothing if not Amorsolo's heirs.

But Pitoy's forte and his favorite has always been our national fabric, the *piña* in all its splendid *callado*. Those who claim to have a problem with Filipino identity have only to look at a Moreno bride in all her *piña* finery to realize that there is only one country in the world that produces this look. Anyone who has watched his shows is aware that Pitoy was inspired by our culture and heritage mixing past and present—the exquisite workmanship on *piña* appears repeatedly, ruffled tiers of organza and frilly lace in rainbow hues recall a colonial past, and beaded jackets utilize the colorful silk of our southern Philippines. There are as well his iconic silhouettes in elaborately beaded *ternos*, indelibly etched in the minds of fashion mavens.

Although the legal profession might have lost someone who could have turned out to be a fine attorney when Pitoy came late for registration, UP nevertheless still became his alma mater for whom he nurtures a soft spot, so much so that he founded this scholarship 30 years ago for fine arts students. The scholarship's scope has been expanded and it now includes medical students. Today the J. Moreno Scholarship Foundation has a total of 20 scholars a year, evenly divided between the two departments. It has graduated 200 doctors and 150 fine arts students. Pitoy is now seriously considering scholarships for agriculture students. This is a good thing too since one has only to think of the fruit industry of Thailand and wonder what happened to us. (Why, for instance, are the *lanzones* from Thailand so sweet and nearly seedless and ours so bitter? Don't answer that). His client's list, which includes names that date back to his UP days, reads like a Who's Who of Philippine society. Whether socialites, film stars, diplomats' wives or royalty, they have one thing in common: they remain faithful to Pitoy and well they should be, especially because he remains faithful to them.

Aside from being a top-notch fashion designer, Moreno has produced a massive tome entitled "Philippine Costume." The work traces the evolution of the Filipino dress. At some point, he translated the book into a show that has been presented in state visits and abroad, thus gaining recognition for the country. A collection of his works is also featured in another coffee table book titled *Kasalan*. Moreno remains one of our most popular wedding designers.

He also established Karilagan International, a fashion cultural organization, to promote Philippine fashions here and abroad and has been recognized by Vogue, Harper's Bazaar and other international fashion magazines. For Moreno it can be said in the words of Chanel, "Fashions change, Style remains."

* * *

Comments to bambiharper@yahoo.com

The bus

YOUNG BLOOD

Eileen Co

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

A FRIEND once told me that life is a bus stop where we're all waiting for the right bus to come along and take us to where we're destined to go.

This got me thinking about how people live their lives. I figured it's perfectly fine to have this frame of mind, but at the same time we should be wary about being stuck in a "sit-and-wait" paradigm.

There are those who spend their time waiting for some big break to happen before they start living. They feel like they don't deserve happiness until they reach a certain milestone like getting their dream job, going overseas, losing weight, finding the perfect partner, earning their first million, or maybe even winning the lottery. I don't know if this is part of the Filipino culture, as exemplified by the *mañana* habit, or a general negative attitude that needs to be corrected. People act as if they can delay whatever it is that needs to be done because they have the luxury of time. They do not seem to have a sense of urgency in embracing life as it is at present and start living.

A typical situation, where the detrimental effects of waiting can be seen, happens when a new and very useful technological gadget comes out. Some buy it and immediately reap its rewards, but there are others who wait and wait for its price to go down. They tell themselves, "If its price goes down by half, then I'll buy it."

Experience tells us that sometimes prices do go down, but you would be lucky if there are any stocks left in the market. Most of the time, however, they don't and you're left with nothing but regret for the time you've wasted waiting when you could have been more productive by using the latest technology. Before you know it, a new gadget comes out and the vicious cycle starts again.

People who have this habit tend to lose out on the benefits they could otherwise have gotten because they opted to wait.

There is a great difference between hoping and holding back. There is nothing wrong with perceiving life as rich with of possibilities and choices, but it is unwise to put one's life lives on hold until the benefits come pouring in. Hope is not a destination. It is there to shed some light on our journey through life.

As we get older, the realization that things don't always turn out the way we want them to dawns upon us. Idealism seems to fade away and wisdom (hopefully) takes its place. Things cannot be perfect, but it is possible to experience joy amidst all the flaws. We can choose to waste our time dwelling on certain matters over which we have no control, or we can use our time wisely and continue developing ourselves, simply taking what life has to offer. Perhaps fear of failure immobilizes people to take things that come their way, but the greatest achievers don't always experience triumph. It is in rising above the challenges that they face that they are able to reap the biggest rewards. The struggle is what life is about.

The challenge lies in being able to embrace life with all its imperfections. Undergoing a quarter-life crisis, experiencing low self-esteem, having financial difficulties or problems in the family—I can understand how all these can weigh a person down and force one to treat his life as if it were on a temporary mode while promising to get back on track once they are solved. I'm not saying that one will have these problems forever because all things must passes some time, but after facing and overcoming such challenges, other (and possibly heavier) problems will come.

Beware of resorting to quick fixes that allows you to get out of bad situations. Such temporary answers will only out you in a vicious cycle of adopting fleeting solutions.

It is never worth waiting until you are free of problems to experience the joy of living, because such moments will add up to a miniscule fraction of your entire lifetime. Isn't it better to experience real living in spite so many difficulties?

To people who are stuck in this rut I say: Stop waiting, life will not get better. It is beautiful as it is, right now, with all its imperfections. If you need something, go right ahead and buy it. Don't wait for things to come before you start appreciating what the world has to offer. Milestones cannot be used to measure one's life because it simply isn't quantifiable. Sometimes you may get lucky and the thing that you're waiting for may come and save you. But be warned because there will definitely be times when things will get so bad that despair will threaten to conquer your soul and luck will not be anywhere near you. Seek happiness, and you shall find out that it's just there all along, staring at you right in the face.

I know that the bus will arrive. But you know, it really doesn't matter. Let us seize the day.

Eileen Co, 23, is taking her master's in environmental management at the Ateneo de Manila University.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO . . .?

Congress slapping incident

DURING THE COMMOTION that broke out in the House of Representatives after the Articles of Impeachment against former President Joseph Estrada were transmitted to the Senate, a congressman supporting Estrada lost his cool and slapped the House sergeant-at-arms in the face. The scene was caught on camera and telecast nationwide.

Former San Juan Rep. Jose Mari Gonzalez was charged with grave slander by deed on April 23, 2001, for slapping Bayani Fabic on Nov. 13, 2000 at the Session Hall of the House of Representatives.

The case was raffled off to the sala of Branch 39 Judge Cesar Untalan at the Quezon City Metropolitan Trial Court.

The House ethics committee voted to reprimand Gonzalez in January 2001. Of the 16 members present, six thought the penalty was too light and walked out of the closed-door session. The six men charged that the other committee members had broken a "gentleman's agreement" to expel Gonzalez. Seven favored the reprimand while three abstained.

Gonzalez pleaded "not guilty" when arraigned on Aug. 29, 2001.

Case status: The prosecution is still presenting its witnesses. On Sept. 24, a hearing was scheduled to screen the videotaped telecast of the slapping incident, but was postponed because the counsel for the accused arrived very late due to a car accident. The hearing was rescheduled to Oct. 21.

D.J. Yap, PDI Research

'Fire' in Filipino artists

AMADIS MA. GUERRERO in his article, "Is the Pinoy artist global?" (PDI, 9/13/04) quoted the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra conductor Eugene F. Castillo as saying that Filipino artists lack fire. Castillo even quoted poet Robert Frost, "From what I've tasted of desire/I hold with those who favor fire."

And the conductor further asked, "Where is the fire (of the Filipino artists)?"

My answer is the following partial list of outstanding Filipino artists:

1. Pianist Cecile Licad (first and last Filipino recipient of the Leventritt Gold Medal—the same award given to Van Cliburn and Gary Graffman—and described by the Chicago Sun Times as "one of the great flaming talents that comes along one or two times in every generation").

2. Soprano Evelyn Mandac (first and last Filipina to sing at the Metropolitan Opera and the first and the last to sing with opera king Placido Domingo).

3. Tenor Otoniel Gonzaga (first and the last Filipino to sing Otello in Prague, Japan and the United States and has Domingo for his fan after watching the Filipino in the lead role of Rigoletto in Munich).

4. Singing actress Lea Salonga (first and last Filipina to win the Tony Award in New York and the Olivier Prize in London).

5. Tenor Noel Velasco (first and last Filipino winner of the Luciano Pavarotti International Voice Competition).

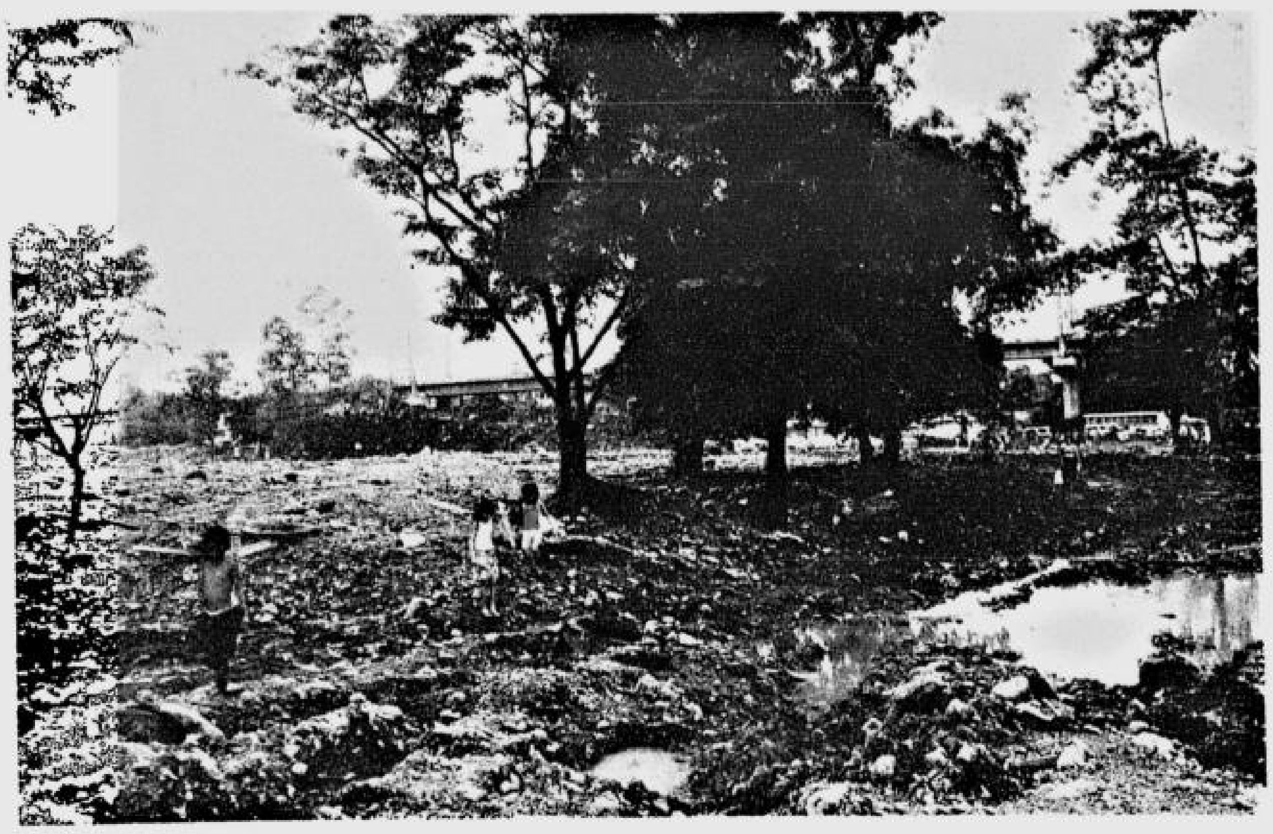
6. Baritone Andrew Fernando (winner of a special prize in voice in New York, the same award given to the authentic diva, Aprile Millo).

The list is long and I would like Castillo to refer to the encyclopedia of Filipino artists published by the Cultural Center of the Philippines where he is employed as the newly installed music director of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra.

If Castillo missed the fire that Licad showed when the latter agreed to be her conductor in Ravel's Concerto in G Minor played last March 23 at the Ayala Tower One, then he must be looking for another kind of "fire" from the Filipino artists.

That kind of statement from a ranking officer of the CCP is, I think, enough why Castillo should be set on fire, literally.

**—PABLO A. TARIMAN,
Block II, Lot 1, Jenny's Avenue,
Maybunga, Pasig City**



Yes, there are priests living in poverty

ZANDRO G. Rapadas' Youngblood article, "Priests and poverty" (PDI, 9/07/04), was critical of priests and religious "who have long benefited from the security and assurance afforded by our culture." All throughout the article, he painted an image of luxurious priests and religious, with lifestyles as extravagant as those of our politicians.

Rapadas' article has a commendable certainty. His heart for the poor was obvious in his words and experience. But while I share most of his thoughts, I cannot agree with some of his views. I believe he made a sweeping judgment on all priests and religious, and I'm afraid the INQUIRER readers might succumb to his biased sentiments.

In the spirit of fairness, Rapadas should have mentioned that 50 percent of Filipino priests, especially those in Mindanao, are bearing with poverty and living simple lifestyles. They have to walk for days to say Mass in many far-flung rural areas. After the Mass, they are served with "*nilagang saging*" or nothing at all, yet they are happy, as happy as those in the metropolis enjoying the comfort and luxuries that can only be found in the metropolis, as well as "the benefits afforded by our culture."

Rapadas confessed to have worked with priests and religious congregations, the reason why he became familiar with their lifestyles. He also accused them of not practicing "simplicity and austerity, in contrast to their promise of poverty." He must have been working only with priests in the metropolis.

Rapadas has an inadequate understanding of poverty. Being poor does not simply mean materially deprived. We have to use the resources provided by God's providence to be effective ministers of God. We are not anymore in the dark ages, when priests have to use smoke signals to convey messages or ride in an ass to go to their destinations. Owning one cell phone of the latest model or a car with a famous brand name is not a crime against poverty. Experience tells us that equipment with distinguished brand names are often durable than those of rickety brands. The gadgets, equipment and facilities owned by most priests are indeed costly but they are more convenient and can be used for a longer period of time than those that are less expensive. Owning a number of cell phones or a fleet of cars or a dozen condos or "a new laptop or a high-end mobile phone... because of insecurity or a desire to be up-to-date" is a clear disdain of the promise of poverty. It is not a practice of austerity and simplicity. It is beyond one's need.

**—FR. LEONARD E. DOLLENTAS,
Lady of All Nations Chapel,
Villamor Air Base, Pasay City**

Who's to blame for RP's fiscal mess?

EVEN without 20/20 hindsight, we can pinpoint the most debilitating policies that led to the country's fiscal mess, for which nobody except President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is to blame. She can't point to any past president to share her perfidy.

The fundamental reason is her utter lack of character and mental honesty. GMA could've seen the government's deteriorating fiscal condition in the first few months after Jose Isidro Camacho was appointed finance secretary. But she didn't do anything. Either she didn't see the downsides of Camacho's big appetite for borrowing or she was too preoccupied with plans to run this year. Like a captain whose ship was taking in water from an approaching storm, GMA couldn't throw overboard excess cargoes for a better chance to weather the storm.

Unfortunately, given the choice to run or not, when all the signs of impending disaster were clear, she decided her ambitions and family's welfare were more important than the nation's. To add insult to injury, instead of putting together a team of candidates who could have helped her avert the fiscal mess, she came up with one whose members were picked essentially in consideration to their possible contribution to her chances of winning. Her winning was all that mattered.

It was also GMA's fault that Fernando Poe Jr. was compelled to run. His victory would've been equally a disaster. Had GMA fulfilled her promise not to run, there would've been good incentives for more competent leaders such as Franklin Drilon, Juan Flavier, Danding Cojuangco, Ramon Magsaysay Jr., etc. to throw their hats into the presidential race.

**—FRANK WENCESLAO
Mindanao Avenue, Q.C.,
Philippines**

Ignorant tree 'killers'

THE "MASSACRE of trees" last Aug. 23 at a government-owned property in Quezon City displayed abuse of authority, total disregard of due process, and irreverence to nature.

What would it merit anyone to bulldoze thousands of tree saplings growing on plastic bags? Certainly, the people who ordered their destruction are not aware of man's responsibility over the natural resources available to him. It takes years to grow a young tree, much more, a full-grown tree. But several powerful groups, unmindful of the importance of due process and urban vegetation, don't care about this.

Through the years, the Manila Seedling Bank Foundation did a noble task in preserving that area of land by planting its greens on a temporary basis. Needless to say, the foundation's young trees served as the silent guardians of the land and significantly contributed to the ecological balance in that part of the city for many years. How could anyone or any group reciprocate this healthy exchange of useful energy benefiting humanity with some forceful and destructive energy? When can our society achieve a commitment drawn to a higher purpose in life, if certain groups omit the very basic and natural process of effecting change in the name of infrastructure development and progress?

The guidebook to living values clearly states: "When respect and reverence are extended to the eternal energy of matter, the elements will serve humanity with accuracy and abundance."

**—ANNIE S. CRUZ,
20 Columbia St.,
Loyola Grand Villas, Quezon City**

Lucky Filipinos

I ALMOST puked upon reading the INQUIRER list showing the salaries of GOCC executives. Topping the list was the former head of Philippine National Oil Co. Ironically, this man was the chief prosecutor during the impeachment case (for plunder) against President Joseph Estrada. In 2002, a year after Edsa II, his take home pay was more than P9 million.

He certainly provided us with some comic relief during the impeachment. But look at him now, since 2002, he must have been laughing his way to the bank. A simple calculation will tell you that what he earned for that year will take an ordinary Filipino three lifetimes to make; but only without being absent from work even for a day.

Remember that Ninoy Aquino story about a friend of his noting how "rucky" Filipinos are?

We were "rucky" then as we are "rucky" now.

We overthrew a president who "robbed" us, and replaced him with officials who "rob" us more.

**—JOSEPH Q. ANG
382 Rizal Ave., Caloocan City**

Wrong prescription from Sec. Dayrit

THIS is a reaction to Secretary Manuel Dayrit's recent statement that "it is not the Department of Health's responsibility to provide contraceptives," in effect saying that family planning is not part of DOH's concerns. Perhaps he has forgotten that family planning is one of the 10 elements of reproductive health as listed in the International Conference on Population and Development/Cairo Conference of 1994, of which the Philippines is a signatory.

Women's health includes being able to recover from a pregnancy before embarking on the next; oftentimes she will need artificial means of contraception to achieve this. Unwanted or unplanned pregnancies sometimes lead to unsafe, illegal abortions, further endangering women's health and even their lives. Pregnancy and childbirth are still among the leading causes of maternal mortality and morbidity; to decrease this statistic, health providers need to ensure safe motherhood and family planning.

Never mind the issue about population and poverty. Let the health secretary take a realistic look at women's health. Let him review DOH's administrative order 43 S. 2000.

**—LYRA RUTH CLEMENTE-CHUA, M.D.,
chair, Women's Advocacy
Committee and
past president, Philippine
OB-GYN Society**

Respect linguistic, cultural rights of the deaf

THESE are comments to the news article written by Volt Contreras, "Deaf also mark National Language Month." (PDI 8/30/04)

The Southeast Asian Institute for the Deaf (SAID) uses Signing Exact English or SEE, an artificial sign system which is different from Filipino Sign Language (FSL). Therefore, the students and alumni of this school are SEE signers and may not all be users of FSL.

We would like to clarify that FSL is not based on the spoken or written languages of English or Tagalog. It is rather a visual sign language which develops naturally. Variation in signs is part of the unique and genuine nature of FSL. This richness can be seen in conversations of vocabulary commonly used by the Filipino Deaf community.

The majority of the deaf population in the country does not understand Filipino because educational institutions use English in all subjects. Filipino is difficult for the deaf because they are not exposed to it enough in school. One can't blame the deaf if they don't know the Filipino synonyms for "love" such as *irog*, *sinta* or *mahal*. These are words associated with Filipinos who can hear and their spoken conversations. Many signs and idioms in use are truly from the heart of deaf Filipinos. They come about and continue to be in use because they represent the thoughts, emotions and communication needs of the deaf. Do we then expect hearing Filipinos to know these signs?

FSL is very important to the Filipino Deaf community. Liisa Kauppinen, recent past president of the World Federation of the Deaf, and a well-respected deaf Finnish leader says, "A deaf person is not handicapped if his or her linguistic and cultural rights are respected."

**—MARITES RAQUEL
ESTILLER-CORPUZ,
vice president,
Philippine Federation of the
Deaf; Philippine director,
FSL Dictionary Project,
philedeaf@yahoo.com**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

INQBOX

Dear Readers, Text us your comments, suggestions and views on today's news or how it was delivered. Tell us about the news you are interested in and the things you want improved in your favorite newspaper. Text INQUIRER <section keyword> name/city/message and send to 283 (Smart) or 2207 (Globe). The section keywords are indicated in the logo of each section.

ur txt msgs
keep us going!
tnx mga
txtm8s! :)

Amid high oil prices, terrorism and the fiscal crisis, what helps or inspires you? What keeps you going?

What keeps me to keep going are my children. Seeing their smiles & hearing their laughter inspires me.
—Morevel Magallanes, *Legazpi City*

Listen 2 a nice song will make me smile, singing with it definitely keeps me going! Thinking positively will also help. Don't worry 2 much, life is too short.
—S. Yao, *Manila*

The dreams of d children inspire me 2 live despite these dilemmas, dat i should voice 2 d government 2 prioritize basic social services 2 effect change.
—D. Selvio, *Angono*

My children & d hope that the future be better economically and financially, as well as security-wise.
—Sally Gardon, *Ilagan, Isabela*

as a producer for tv, it would be d simple stories of courage dat people share w/ me. & how i can share these with everyone else. aSTiG-PiNoY!
—Myu Verona, *QC*

The fact that whatever is happening or will happen is temporal and that God is always in control. Whatever our problem is, Jesus is with us.
—F, *Olongapo*

Si Kuya Jess! Tiwala lang sa pagmamahal Niya!
—Rommel, *Marikina*

my family, especially my kids.
—Gary Teh, *Manila*

For me, d strengths of d Filipinos and cooperation. Especially our farmers who are practicing sustainable agriculture 2 lessen their production cost.
—Jean Yasol, *Bohol*

my inspiration are d streetchildren. becoz dey make me realize dat i can do something 2 improve their lives. after all, they're our responsibility.
—Kai D. Ledesma, *Tagum City*

What keeps me going is my faith that 1 day, the Philippines can recover from this crisis & an honest president shall rule like d late ramon magsaysay.
—Daisy Reyes, *Tayabas, Quezon*

Filipinos are resilient people with the natural ability to laugh while looking at solutions 2 problems.
—Dominico S. Digamon, *Legaspi City*

Having a regular job dat will support my family's daily needs keeps me going. Seeing my family together helps me keep my sanity.
—Marlyn de Jesus, *Parañaque*

Andyan pa rin ang San Miguel Beer! Ü
—Richmond Uy, *QUEZON CITY*

What keeps me going is d thought dat God gave these 2 us because he knew We can surpass all of these.
—Anabelle Oplenia, *Surigao*

those people who show honesty & courage despite r present situation. Determination & Faith that this hardship in life will soon be over.
—Romel Tabug, *Manila*

Some militant party-list representatives have protested the cut in their pork barrel (from 35 million pesos each to just 10 million pesos each). Is their protest valid or not?

Since dey represent d legitimate interests of d marginalized sector of society, miLitant party-List shud have their pork barrel uncut. Let trapos take d cut!
—Willie Somabes, *QC*

NO, Their PROTEST is NOT valid. It only shows their TRUE colors. kunyari concerned sila sa Bayan.
—Rodolfo Cabacang, *Limay, Bataan*

no coz it contradicts their stand of abolishing d pork barrel system.
—jimmy samonte, *makati*

no. not in times like this. they should be sensitive to the feelings of d common tao.
—Gary Teh, *Manila*

their decision. para silang sex bomb—laban laban o bawi bawi.
—paul ganaban, *bacolod*

yes their protest is valid. bcoz like other representatives, they were also elected & unless all pork 4 every congressmen were reduced, its just so unfair to single them out.
—maila garcia, *tanauan city*

Protest is VALID because 1) they receive only small portion and 2) use it correctly, eg. to build school buildings.
—ariel buning, *meycauayan, bulacan*

no—naghihirap ang bansa, it excuses no one—its a test and challenge of their nationalism and patriotism, their battle cry.
—ronnie romero, *laoag city*

their protest not valid. dey have dis compliance to Joma to remit their pork for d armed struggle. how cud they do that if their PADF is cut?
—edgar friginal, *balanga*

Their reason is valid as they know how 2 use their funds wisely.
—tricia n. pribdhas, *Q.C.*

Pork barrel may it be a huge amount or not, if not spent & used 4 the welfare of the poor, then the poor will suffer and not get what is due them. Government officials should prioritize people and not their pockets 2b maximized.
—chie santos, *parañaque city*

protest not valid. their protest is a classic example of succumbing 2 dirty politics. b4 they shout for abolition, now dey shout retention.
—ROGER ZAMORA, *BUTUAN CITY*

Yes their protest is valid. Their pork barrel is actually a fund to balance the inadequate resources specifically directed to their sectors.
—pete, *makati*

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) *Assistant Editor* Tony Bergonia

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
15-16 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0340/232-0348
Fax No. (032) 232-9538
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

3 RP women enslaved in Sabah return

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Three of the four Negros women who said they were turned sex slaves in Sabah, Malaysia, have returned to the country.

But only Elena (not her real name) returned to Negros Occidental on Sunday, as the two others decided to stay in Manila in the meantime because they were ashamed of what they had gone through.

The three said they would file charges against those responsible for turning them into sex slaves, including the three recruiters from Manila.

Among those to be included in the charges were their recruiters identified as Lorna and Francis Villanueva and Joan Bacago who brought the women to Sabah.

They may also include in the charges the owner of the brothel in Sabah identified only as Michael and Alex, both Malaysians but of Chinese descent and the Filipinos under their employ who helped force them into prostitution.

Elena, 27 and a native of Isabela town, Negros Occidental, said the Villanueva couple recruited them in August to work as receptionists at a karaoke bar for $300 a month. Francis, she added, was from Iloilo.

But when they got to Sabah, she added, they learned that they were to be made prostitutes.

She said they wept and begged not to be made to service clients but were not allowed to leave.

They said there are four Filipina pimps at the brothel. One of them was a woman from Iloilo named Malou, who made sure the 20 Filipino women working there did not escape.

Of the 20 women kept in the brothel, four were minors. Two were from Iloilo and the rest were from Manila, Zambonga and General Santos City, said Elena.

She said Malou hurt, slapped and kicked the women who refused to take on customers but did not hurt the Illonggas because they fought back.

Elena said they were only fed a meal per day and only in the evening. "We worked from 1 p.m. to 2 a.m. and some nights there were four to five customers," she said.

She said customers paid 180 ringgits for three hours as shown in receipts she showed to reporters on Sunday night, and 300 ringgits for overnight work.

Elena said they ended up without pay due to many deductions. Among them was the 15 ringgits a day for housing, on top of deductions for food and electricity.

"If we refused to work we were fined 500 to 1,000 ringgits and if a customer complained that the girl who serviced him smelled, she would also be fined," she said. One ringgit is equivalent to P14.83.

They also had to pay for their pills as well as the condoms of their customers. Those who got sexually transmitted disease were made to pay for their medicines.

Unable to bear their condition, Elena secretly sent a text message to Negros Occidental Vice. Gov. Isidro Zayco and asked for help. Zayco, in turn, sought the assistance of Rep. Ignacio Arroyo Jr. (Negros Occidental., 5th District) because the women came from his district.

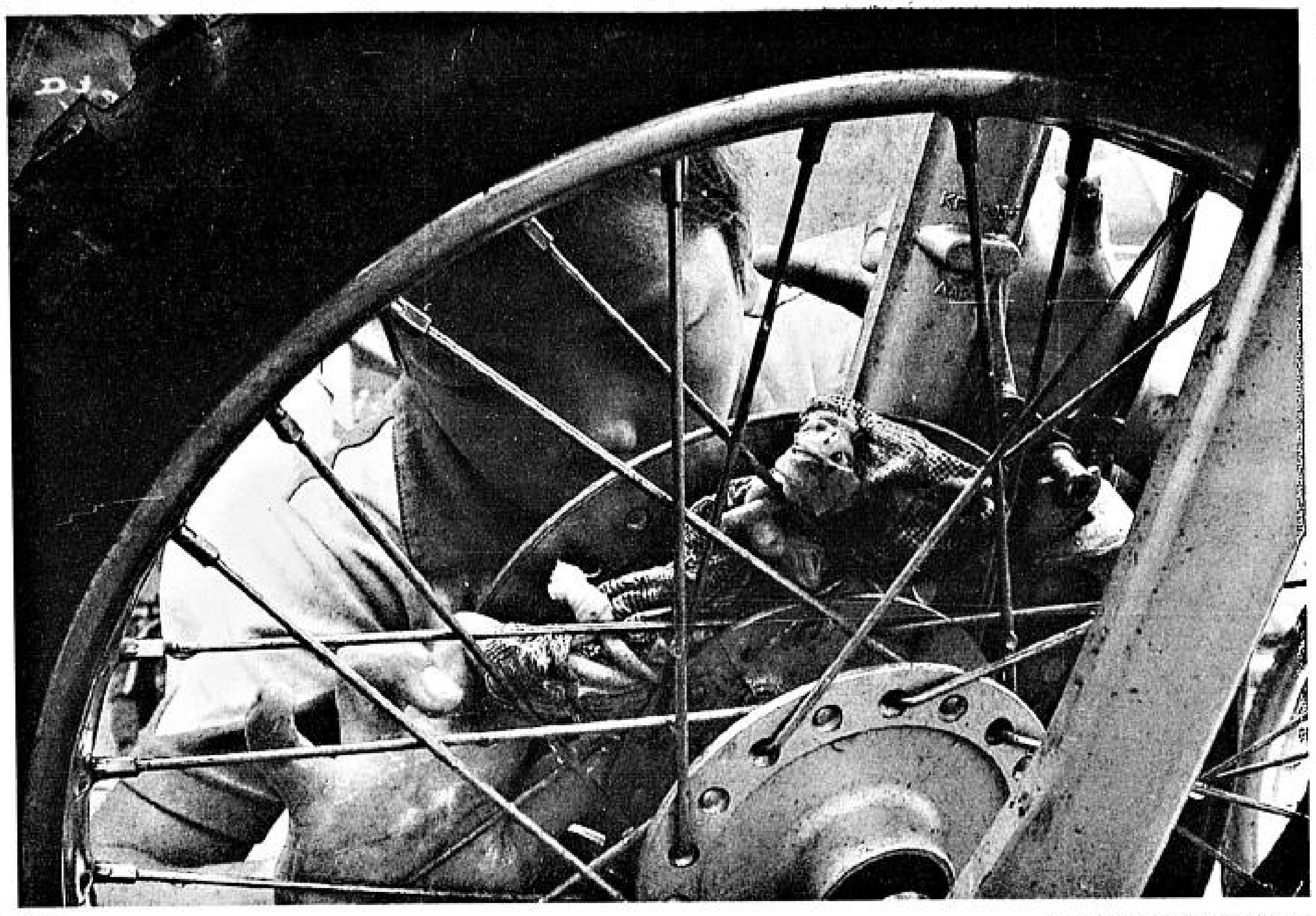
Arroyo then sought the help of Malaysian officials who sent their police in search of the Negrenses.

The Malaysian police then conducted nightly raids on their brothel for about a week in search of them.

During the raids, their employer hid them in a locked room. But the police operations were bad for business so their employer decided to release them and gave them tickets to return to the Philippines.

Elena said the women who were left behind wanted to be rescued too but some of them were ashamed to tell their family what happened to them.

"It is not true that the others do not want to be rescued," she said.



JOB

BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

A boy turns to the parking area of a fast food chain in Davao City, washing cars and motorcycles, for income to pay for some of his school needs.

Ex-assemblyman found murdered in Pampanga town

BACOLOR, Pampanga—The murder of former Assemblyman Jose Cervantes on Sunday shattered the peace in Barangay Cabalantian as residents prepared to commemorate the 9th anniversary of the town's burial by Mt. Pinatubo's lahar on Oct 1.

Cervantes, hailed as the country's outstanding farmer during the 1970s, was found sprawled dead inside the bathroom of his house on Zone 6 here.

Police reported finding seven stab wounds in his body, two of which were near his heart. The suspect apparently used an ice pick.

Farmers in Cabalantian and other Bacolor villages rushed to his house on Monday to join the mourning.

Augusto Baluyut, former agriculture director in Central Luzon and brother-in-law of Cervantes, said the victim helped farmers revive their lands.

After lahar submerged Bacolor on Oct. 1, 1995—now known as the Cabalantian tragedy—Cervantes briefly settled in an evacudtion center in Arayat.

His son Teodoro said his father returned less than a year later and began rehabilitating his fishponds. This inspired farmers in Cabalantian to resume agricultural activities amid the harsh environment.

Mustering support for displaced farmers, Cervantes invited former President Fidel Ramos once to show him that fishponds thrived in lahar.

Cervantes also tapped the help of former Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor.

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources personnel were among those who went to the wake on Monday.

Rosalina, the widow of Cervantes, said the killing occurred on the heels of a land dispute that her husband recently won. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Abra folk start drive to bring home OFW

BAGUIO CITY—Residents of Abra have started an online petition to repatriate a female OFW who died in Saudi Arabia on Aug. 2.

The body of Onesima "Oning" Afos Pudol, originally from La Paz town here, cannot be brought home because her employer cannot be found.

About 170 people have already signed the petition featured in www.abrenian.com calling for the Department of Foreign Affairs to repatriate Pudol's body.

"We are willing to bring home Oning from Manila to La Paz but only DFA can help us in bringing her from Saudi to Manila," said La Paz Mayor Israel Bernos.

Bernos said Oning's two children, who have gone to college through their mother's remittance, have not been attending school now thinking about their mother's fate.

Pudol worked as a dressmaker in Saudi since 1992. Her original employer married, leaving Pudol to her new boss who, it turned out, refused to pay her.

She sought the help of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (Polo) in Saudi Arabia in May in filing a case against her new employer for non-payment of wage.

But while waiting for the decision last July, Pudol suffered a stroke and was in a coma when the decision was handed in her favor.

The problem now is that the police cannot find her employer, Bernos said.

Pudol's cousin also said a Philippine embassy official in Saudi had told them that if the employer would not be located they would have to seek the help of the Saudi officials to release the body form the morgue.

They would have to raise 8,000 Saudi rials for the release.

The letter, entitled "Bring Oning Home," asked Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo to facilitate the repatriation of Pudol's body. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Ex-cop tagged in kidnap slain

BUTUAN CITY—A retired police official who was indicted for being the alleged mastermind of a kidnapping group here was slain on Sunday night.

Senior Supt. Efren Anggo, city police chief, said the victim, former police Insp. Roland Barleso, was stabbed to death by a lone assailant near his residence in Barangay Libertad here.

Barleso's house is just in front of the Western Police Precinct.

The suspect, who fled on foot, remained at large.

Anggo said he could not discount the possibility that Barleso's own men were behind the killing. *Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Suspect in TV anchor's slay held

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Police arrested a butcher believed to be one of four suspects who robbed and killed a television news anchor in Iloilo City.

A team of the Mandurriao District police station and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) arrested Jessie Jamili, 25, at his house in Barangay Taft North in Mandurriao District past midnight Monday.

Police recovered two 12-gauge shotguns and several bullets in a cluster of banana trees near Jamili's house.

Insp. Donde Deocampo, Mandurriao police chief, said they believed one of the guns was used in the shooting of Christopher Misajon, 29, news anchor in the Ratsada news program of GMA-6 Iloilo.

Senior Supt. Policarpio Segubre, Iloilo City police director, said Jamili was identified by Misajon's companion Ma. Theresa Bacabac as among those who attacked them.

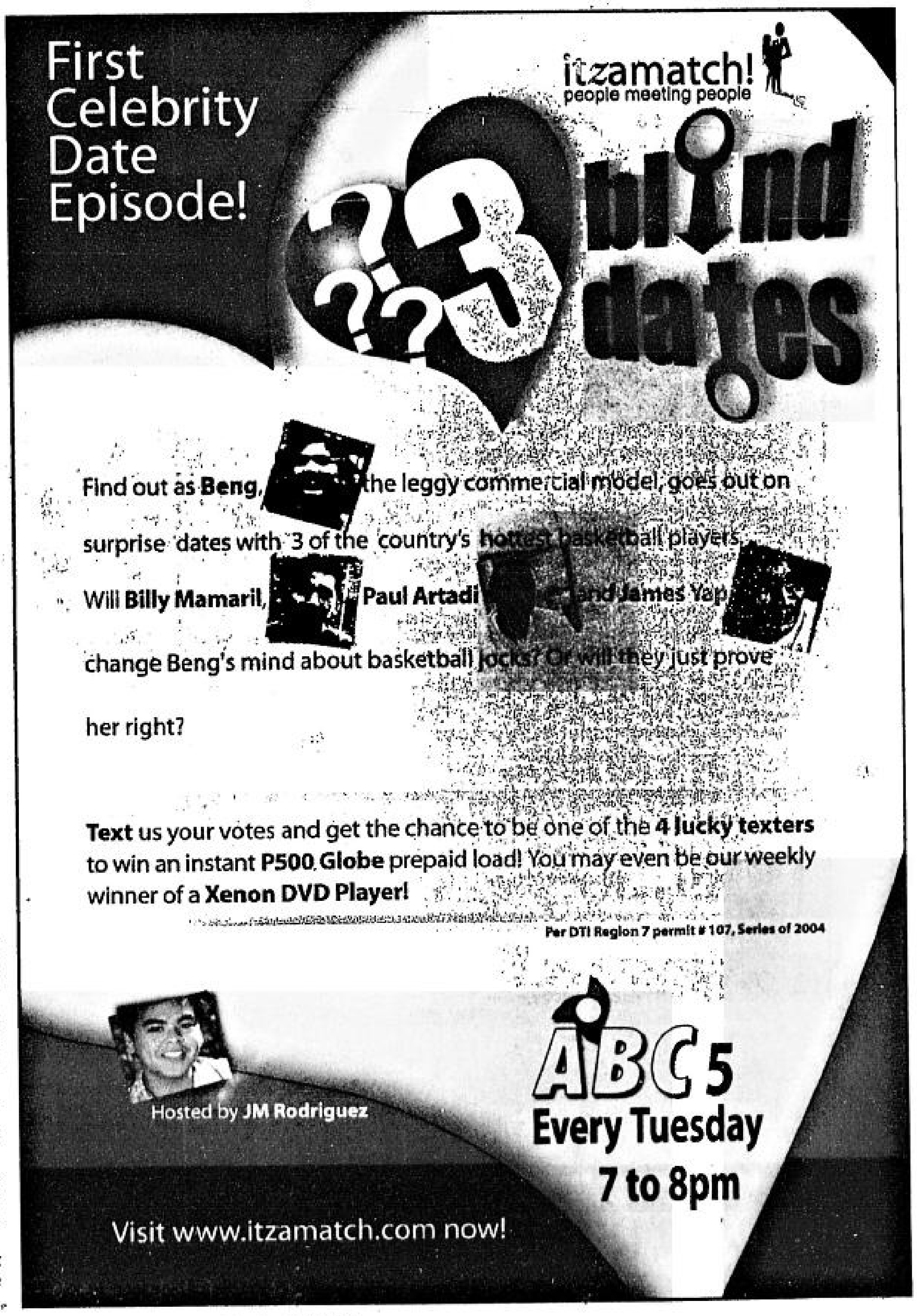
Supt. Jose Jorge Corpuz, CIDG regional chief, said they also had witnesses who could identify the firearms used in the shooting and the remaining suspects.

The police are set to file robbery and homicide charges against the suspects, said Corpuz.

"The (case) is about 90 percent solved," Segubre told reporters.

Misajon and Bacabac were attacked around 1 a.m. Thursday in Barangay San Rafael in Mandurriao District. The robbers took two cellular phones and P500 cash from the victims.

The victims were on their way to Jaro District and took a shortcut through a dirt road where the robbers approached the car that they were riding.



First Celebrity Date Episode!

Find out as **Beng**, the leggy commercial model, goes out on surprise dates with 3 of the country's hottest basketball players.

Will **Billy Mamaril**, **Paul Artadi** and **James Yap** change Beng's mind about basketball jocks? Or will they just prove her right?

Text us your votes and get the chance to be one of the **4 lucky texters** to win an instant **P500 Globe** prepaid load! You may even be our weekly winner of a **Xenon DVD Player!**

Per DTI Region 7 permit # 107, Series of 2004

Hosted by **JM Rodriguez**

Every Tuesday
7 to 8pm

Visit www.itzamatch.com now!

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

JI operatives stalked Davao, say PNP execs

By Jeffrey Tupas
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—At least four suspected Jemaah Islamiyah operatives had sneaked into this city days before the visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo last week.

Col. Eduardo del Rosario, commander of the Task Force Davao, said they received reports about the presence of the JI members days before the President's visit here for the Mindanao Business Conference on Sept. 16.

He said the suspected terrorists came from Central Mindanao. He, however, did not elaborate.

Early this month, the INQUIRER reported JI activities in Central Mindanao, particularly in areas supposed to be controlled by the rebel group Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Police intelligence

The report, based on police intelligence, said the JI with foreign and local members, was planning to bomb either or both the cities of Davao and General Santos.

An intelligence officer of the police office in Central Mindanao said the suspected JI members have also been training local rebels on the manufacture of bombs using car batteries.

The report came while leaders of MILF called on their members to be vigilant against the possible entry of JI operatives in their areas following the deadly attack on the Australian Embassy in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta.

Del Rosario said the JI's terror plans were thwarted by surveillance and early action.

He said the JI members left a day after Ms Arroyo's visit to the city.

BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

WEALTH IN TRASH
A scrap materials collector takes a rest on a sidewalk in Davao City after scouring the city's streets for trash that could translate into income.

Davao City trash end up in Davao Gulf

DAVAO CITY—Mountains of garbage from Davao City have been swamping the nearby island of Samal, less than 2 km away, threatening marine life in the Davao Gulf.

"Everyday, we are confronted by mounds of floating garbage from the sea," Island Garden City of Samal Mayor Rogelio Antalan said in an environment summit here.

"We spend several hours a day just cleaning them up," he added.

Antalan said the garbage come from Davao City and reach as far as the Talikud Island several kilometers away.

"Lately, we're thinking of deploying boats to clean garbage up. But when will this garbage dumping end?" he said.

Davao City Councilor Leonardo Avila said the city has been waging a war against garbage, by leading a clean up drive along 60 km of the city coastline but despite the 40 dump trucks collecting garbage in the city everyday, some of the trash still find their way to the water.

"Which only comes to show that problems about the environment cannot just be treated in isolation," said Jose Maria Lorenzo Tan, president of the World Wild Fund Phils.

Tan said the whale that was beached on the shores of Talomo District here earlier this year had swallowed plastic bags coming from six countries in the world, showing how the garbage you throw in Vietnam or Thailand can finally find their way here.

Plastics found in the belly of the long man beak whale discovered beached in Talomo in February this year came from as far as Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Hong Kong.

Since this whale species is not a migrating type, it was the plastics that found their way to the Davao Gulf to the whale, and not the other way around, Tan said.

Sixteen towns and five cities, including Davao, surround the Davao Gulf, one of the country's 10 largest fishing grounds.

Tan said 10 species of whales and dolphins live here, and so do leatherback turtles and the *dugongs* (sea cows), listed among the world's threatened species in the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species.

Germelina Lacorte, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Balangiga clash remembered today

By Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Hundreds are expected to flock to Balangiga, Eastern Samar to attend the commemoration rites for the 103rd anniversary of the Balangiga Encounter of 1901 when revolutionaries almost wiped out the American detachment based in the coastal town.

The celebration will be simple, said Norma Morante, Department of Tourism director for Eastern Visayas.

The commemoration program would be held this morning at the municipal plaza where the P6-million Balangiga Encounter Movement and Memorial Library designed by national artist Napoleon Abueva now stands.

The memorial depicts the scene when the Filipino revolutionaries were about to attack the American soldiers, with life-size statues and a replica of the church belfry, among others.

In the afternoon, there would be a reenactment of that historic event at the Balangiga central elementary school, which would be participated in by some town officials, high school student and pupils.

Eastern Samar Rep. Marcelino Libanan, Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone, and Balangiga Mayor Catalina Camenforte would be in Balangiga to welcome guests and visitors.

Considered as the "worst single defeat" of the Americans during the Philippine-American War, the Balangiga Encounter was participated in by some 500 residents of Balangiga who bravely fought the well-armed Americans.

www.samsung.ph
ATHENS 2004
SAMSUNG
WORLDWIDE PARTNER WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT
The beauty of movement.
- Slide-up opening
- VGA camera with flash
- 65,536 color TFT screen
- Voice clarity & speakerphone

E800
Soft-slide phone with flash camera.
Just touch it lightly and experience the soft-slide opening. Enjoy a high resolution camera with flash and a revolutionary noise-cancelling speakerphone. It is engineering at its smoothest.
Samsung Electronics Philippines Corporation Ground Floor, Bonaventure Plaza, Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. No. 722-7777 Loc. 254 • Fax No. 721-6323 • For Customer Contact Center, dial 1-800-10SAMSUNG (1-800-10-7267864)
Register and Win
Register any SAMSUNG Product purchased within 2004 and get a chance to win a SAMSUNG Digital Camcorder. To join text SAMSUNG to 2982 (Globe) or 283 (Smart), or register at www.samsung.ph, or mail your Product Registration Cards
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. [illegible] Series of 2004

Indons make most of porous RP border

From page A1

sands of Indonesians who have migrated to Mindanao, and many go back and forth across the maritime border with impunity.

Just about anything that can be bought cheaply in Indonesia—from pirated DVDs to ceramic floor tiles and even exotic birds—is smuggled into Mindanao.

More worrying for Wagwag, pirates also sail these seas and they are often better armed and equipped than the Coast Guard.

These days, thinly stretched local security forces are also under pressure to keep a watchful eye on a more deadly import—Muslim militants from Indonesia.

The links between Mindanao and the Southeast Asian militant group Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) were highlighted once more by reports that one of the two main suspects in the recent bombing outside the Australian Embassy in Jakarta had trained in Central Mindanao.

Security officials believe hundreds of JI operatives have used Mindanao as a training base and refuge, drawn by its lawless jungles and mountains where four separate Moro rebel groups have set up bases. *(See related story in Across the Nation, Page A16.)*

Tracking down the militants has been made more difficult by their apparent links with elements of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the main rebel group in Mindanao.

Blending

But the JI militants are also able to blend in with thousands of Indonesians who have made Mindanao their home.

Officials say there are 10,000 to 15,000 Indonesians in Mindanao, most of them concentrated on islands off the coast, in villages around cities such as General Santos and Davao, and in the plains of South Cotabato.

AN INDONESIAN born in the Philippines shows the Indonesian flag to children in a makeshift classroom in a coastal village in Glan, South Cotabato. REUTERS

More than 5,000 Indonesians cast their votes in the first round of Indonesian presidential elections in July, although only a handful of Indonesian residents are considered legal aliens under Philippine law.

Indonesia has been a cheap source of farm labor since the 1920s when illegal migrants from North Sulawesi worked in coconut plantations and rice mills in Mindanao. Many also served as domestic helpers. Later, many were employed in the tuna industry.

Mindanao is viewed as a promised land by Indonesians from remote parts of North Sulawesi. "Life is much, much better here," said Mamasi Mendumba, who left his home on Sangir island off North Sulawesi in 1966 after a powerful volcanic eruption.

"We're better off here because it's easy to find a job and the pay is much higher than in Indonesia," he added.

Only one home

For Indonesians with an entrepreneurial spirit, opportunities abound in Mindanao.

Cheap consumer products from North Sulawesi are brought in by Philippine-born Indonesians operating small boats, hopping from one island to another peddling grains, pirated discs, kerosene and diesel.

"I can get a 4-liter container of kerosene for less than half of the going prices here," Mendumba told Reuters. "But I can only bring in small amounts because my boat is small."

Mendumba has two boats, operated by his two sons, that shuttle between Mindanao and Indonesia's Sangir island, a 14-hour trip in fair weather.

Numerous moves over the years to get the Indonesians to register or send them home have failed.

Immigration officer Ernesto Mercado said the Philippine government had no clear policy on how to deal with the growing number of undocumented Indonesians.

"These people have nowhere to go home to in Indonesia," Mercado said. "They know only one home—that's here in Mindanao." *Reuters*

Early gov't retirement plan backed, whacked

From page A1

Two party-list representatives are also against the program aimed at downsizing the bureaucracy.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday said he wanted the early retirement plan to target top officials rather than the rank-and-file given the "top-heavy bureaucracy.'"

About 33,000 employees, or 3 percent of the 1.1-million-strong bureaucracy, are expected to avail themselves of the program, according to Rep. Joey Salceda. Each would get an average retirement benefit of P909,000 (P30 billion divided 33,000).

The bonanza is in addition to the regular retirement package granted by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS). Public school teachers, policemen and soldiers are excluded from the program.

In a statement, the Department of Budget and Management clarified the report that P1 million would be given to every government employee as part of the early retirement package.

"I don't know where they got the P1 million per retiree figure. As far as the rationalization program is concerned, it is not yet known how much each retiree will get; definitely, it will not be P1 million," Secretary Emilia Boncodin said.

Boncodin said the retirement benefit would depend on the employees' salary and the number of years they had served. Those who do not meet the requirements, she said, would receive a minimum incentive of P30,000.

"If we will give P1 million as a retirement package to each employee affected by the rationalization plan, it would be unfair to those employees who have served the government longer than the new employees," she said.

Moreover, Boncodin said, the package was not open to all employees, but "only those employed in departments or agencies whose functions are redundant or no longer relevant."

The affected employees may also opt to be transferred to another government agency, she said.

Boncodin said there was no estimate yet on the number of employees to be affected by the plan because it was voluntary.

Neophyte Sen. Manuel Roxas II said he would endorse the plan "as long as it would generate real savings, as advertised by budget planners."

The plan should also call for a "strict freeze on the hiring of new government employees in order to fully preserve the cost savings," he said.

Already, a third of the national budget goes to the salaries of government officials and employees, one of the highest such allocations in the region.

Personnel services (government salaries) accounted for 6.6 percent of the gross domestic product in 2001—compared with 1.8 percent in Indonesia (1997), 5.2 percent in Malaysia (1997), 5.3 percent in Singapore and 5.9 percent in Thailand.

Makes sense

Roxas said the retirement plan "makes a lot of sense from the point of view of a businessman.

"Even if the government borrows 50 percent of the P30 billion (needed to fund the plan), or P15 billion at 10-percent interest, it would still be a sound investment since the money would be generating a 25-percent return in terms of cost savings," he said.

The GSIS has set aside P15 billion for the program, while the national government will get the balance of P15 billion from a $300-million loan from the World Bank.

Under the plan, employees who served at least 40 years would get the equivalent of a month's pay per year of service, while those who served less than 40 years would get 75 percent of their monthly pay, and those with less than 20 years would get 50 percent.

"Employees affected by the rationalization plan who may wish to retire will get the regular retirement package from the GSIS plus an incentive package which will be paid for by the national government," Boncodin said.

The retirement package is part of President Macapagal-Arroyo's commitment in her State of the Nation Address in July "to reengineer government and provide silver parachutes for redundant offices."

Ms Arroyo also wants a "lean and mean bureaucracy."

Cup of hemlock

Ferdinand Gaite, president of the Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage), said the retirement package was "a cup of hemlock, not a silver parachute."

"The figures being dangled may look enticing at first, but once an employee has availed himself of it, only then will the truth be known. The early retirement plan of the administration is a bait—a sugarcoated bitter pill meant to retrench the personnel of the bureaucracy and abandon basic social services," Gaite said in a statement.

He assailed the plan to tap the GSIS for the early retirement package. "The mismanagement and fund abuse issues raised against GSIS with Winston Garcia at its helm have yet to be settled, now government will once again dip its hands into our funds."

Gaite recalled what happened to employees of the former Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, Economic Intelligence and Investigation Bureau and National Power Corp. who availed themselves of early retirement packages.

Up to now, the workers had yet to receive their benefits in full while some had yet to receive their retirement pay, according to the Courage official.

In the House of Representatives, party-list Rep. Liza Maza (Gabriela) said the early retirement plan would force highly qualified women to transfer to private firms or return to domestic work.

Maza said the plan, along with labor contractualization, must be resisted because it would spell disaster for workers.

Salary increase

For his part, party-list Rep. Renato Magtubo (Partido ng Manggagawa) said the proposed reengineering package should instead be realigned to increase the salaries of state workers.

Magtubo said that for the government to achieve an efficient bureaucracy, it should motivate its workers by paying them well and inculcating in them the values of competence and efficiency.

"The government's proposed retirement package is a sound offer, but if it is aimed at the efficiency of the bureaucracy, Ms Arroyo is doing it the wrong way," he said.

Magtubo said the package should be voluntary and not selective. He said it was wrong to exempt public school teachers, policemen and soldiers from the offer.

In the Senate, Enrile told reporters the government should retire "people in the higher echelons" and that undersecretaries and assistant secretaries "should be the first to go.

"I support the thinning out at the top because these people can easily find a job, or can be self-employed or be entrepreneurs not the rank-and-file who require their jobs to sustain their families," Enrile said.

The opposition senator noted that when he was in the defense, justice and finance departments, only two undersecretaries were assigned there and this was enough.

If officials are made to retire, they should not be rehired as happened at Napocor, "which only increased the burden of government," Enrile said.

Roxas said the retirement plan should have clear and definite guidelines.

"We have to ensure fairness. We have to avoid favoritism, discrimination and all sorts of problems that might bug the implementation of the plan," he said in a statement.

Roxas said the government should ensure "balance" in the retirement plan. "We might end up retiring a lot of brilliant civil servants and keeping the mediocre ones." *With reports from Martin P. Marfil and Norman Bordadora*

DepEd blinks, to correct errors in history book

From page A1

rect reported errors in a history textbook being used by second year high school students.

They also turned conciliatory toward Marian School academic supervisor Antonio Calipjo Go, who had placed a newspaper ad on Sept. 20 alleging 431 errors in the 316-page "Asya: Noon, Ngayon at sa Hinaharap (Asia: Then, Now and in the Future)."

"In the interest of truth and fairness, if there are mistakes or inaccuracies that need to be corrected, we are willing to do (that)," Education Secretary Florencio Abad announced at a news conference yesterday.

He distributed copies of his letter inviting Go to share with Department of Education officials the 82-page list of errors he had compiled.

Abad wrote: "We believe it would be meaningful and productive for us to meet and discuss your alleged list of errors of fact or interpretation in the book, so that the Department of Education can take action on them, if warranted."

Until Friday, officials were adamant about admitting that a DepEd-approved textbook could contain so many mistakes.

The authors—Dr. Teofista Vivar, Evelina Viloria and Ruth Fuentes (the fourth, Remedios Quiray, is deceased)—had said Go "manufactured or fabricated" the alleged errors.

Yesterday, neither Abad nor Undersecretary Juan Miguel Luz reiterated their earlier accusation that Go had "malicious intent."

Correction notes

But no way would DepEd recall the textbook's 1.14 million copies in some 5,000 public high schools. History textbooks were due for replacement in October 2005 anyway, the officials said.

"You can imagine [that] recalling them would be quite impractical," Abad pointed out. "Just sending out teaching notes would be a better way of [making the corrections]," he said.

Reached by phone, Go said the DepEd's move was "a good sign." But he said he would still demand an apology for the accusation that he had first tried to sell the list of errors to the publishers, Vibal Publishing and SD Publication.

"Asya: Noon, Ngayon at sa Hinaharap" was approved by DepEd in 1997, 1999 and 2001—before Abad, Luz and Undersecretary Fe Hidalgo, who is now in charge of the review, assumed office.

Abad said he was open to the idea of reviewing all public school textbooks. "I don't see why we shouldn't do it, if the same observations are presented to us," he said.

He admitted that after a cursory review of the book in question, DepEd officials found one "major mistake." He did not say what it was. But he promised that his office would "look not just [into] the book itself but [also into] the process that went into its [approval]."

History repeats

Even so, Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo has asked the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission to investigate the officials who evaluated and approved the book.

Ocampo, a former journalist, said these officials should be treated like suppliers of substandard military helmets and materials for public works projects. In fact, he said, instructional tools that feed schoolchildren the wrong information caused longer-lasting damage to the country.

The lawmaker claimed that the problem of public school textbooks laden with mistakes should have been completely remedied as early as 1996, when the first such reports surfaced during the 10th Congress.

He recounted that, after several public hearings on those initial complaints, the House committee on education established that members of the Instructional Materials Council, the department's official textbook evaluators, had committed "grave negligence."

The committee did not recommend the filing of criminal charges against the education officials, Ocampo recounted, only because then Secretary Ricardo Gloria issued an apology and ordered the pullout of 36 titles found to have "glaring errors" in facts, grammar, concepts and illustrations.

'Condom king' undaunted by Church stand

From page A1

behind are you?" Government estimates were usually lower than the actual figures, he stressed, because "it's part of the stage of denial."

In the Philippines, the Department of Health's HIV-AIDS registry shows only 2,121 persons living with AIDS (PLWAs)—a third of them overseas Filipino workers, particularly seafarers. International health agencies, however, say the real figures could be three times as high as the official count.

If only because of this, Mechai said, citizens, especially the PLWAs, should stop looking to government for action, and start community initiatives. "Forget about the government," he said. "Action has to come from within ... leadership will have to come from somewhere else."

Education drive

He said the key to rooting out HIV-AIDS was to educate people, including children, and then actively involving them in the campaign.

In the past, he had launched condom-blowing contests among schoolchildren, who were later tasked with teaching those in the lower grades about HIV-AIDS and distributing condoms to households in the provinces.

In his country, Mechai said, taxi drivers in the capital are given condoms to offer to passengers, specifically those bound for the red light district. He said the cabbies are also given tapes on HIV-AIDS that they could play during the ride.

His suggestion: "Involve taxi and jeepney drivers here. We need everyone, not just health officials. Anyone who can affect behavior must be involved or else it will be a health disaster that even the doctors will not be able to handle."

More recently, Mechai said, a Citizens National AIDS Committee was formed in his country to ensure that the promises made by Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra during the 15th International AIDS Conference in Bangkok in July were fulfilled.

Among other things, he said, Thaksin pledged to provide medical treatment for all PLWAs, and to treat all drug users with HIV-AIDS as patients, not criminals.

He urged Filipinos to form a similar group to monitor the real HIV-AIDS situation here—check the accuracy of statistics and the "human rights condition" among PLWAs.

"We don't need political power," Mechai said, "just [the power of] information so we can tell the government what is really happening."

Zydus Research Centre to Benefit Filipino Patients

With the recent trend in Research and Development (R&D) in India and its crucial role in the global pharmaceutical industry, prices of medicines are expected to go down in the very near future to benefit more patients in the Philippines.

ZYDUS CADILA, currently India's fourth largest pharmaceutical company and one of the leading investors in research, will very soon partner with a reputable national company in the Philippines to launch its present range of quality products at affordable prices.

Firm in its belief that research is the key to success of any pharmaceutical organization, Zydus invests 7.5% of its turnover on R&D of which a significant amount has been spent on creating the world-class **ZYDUS RESEARCH CENTRE** (ZRC). A team of 180 research scientists are actively engaged in research in various disciplines of pharmaceutical sciences. **ZRC** aims to be the most admired pharmaceutical research center for innovation in life science dedicated to alleviating human sufferings. At **ZRC**, the focus is on finding innovative therapies for diseases affecting mankind through continuous research and development. The major area of research includes new molecular entities, novel drug delivery systems, novel processes and therapeutic proteins and Vaccine by r-DNA technology.

In the recent Ernst & Young Global Pharmaceutical Report 2004, many giant pharmaceutical multinational companies are recognizing India as a global hub for their manufacturing and research requirements. Strengthened by highly educated talent pool and large manufacturing base, India has the capability to produce quality medicines with 30 to 50 percent cost-saving advantage.

However, not all from among the 24,000 Indian pharmaceutical companies can make it to the global league. Aware of this tremendous opportunity to be a key player in the global pharmaceutical industry, **ZYDUS CADILA**, with USFDA and WHO-GMP approved facilities, has prepared itself by building strengths in research and building a product portfolio of innovative research products.

The Cannes Gold Lion

Advertising that makes a lasting impression. Available only to discriminating CEO's.

Gold Lion
Parfum
Cannes

The Cannes Lions CEO Forum, September 30.

INQUIRER The Cannes Lions CEO Forum brings together the country's leading advertisers and ad agencies. It runs from 8 - 11am on Thursday September 30 at My Cinema, Greenbelt 3. For your invitation call Hazel Cervales on 897 8808, loc 261 Or call Raymond Nocino on 818 6113 for more information. CANNESLIONS

All-time low: ₱56.45-$1

From page A1

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said that the peso "is expected to improve with better foreign exchange inflows starting October."

Pressure

"Pressure came from month-end and quarter-end demand plus slightly weaker regional currencies," Tetangco said.

The peso opened at 56.39 and depreciated throughout the day to close at the intra-day low of 56.45 to the dollar at a volume of $155.5 million.

Unfazed

Malacañang was unfazed by the continued decline of the peso.

"We attribute this to the seasonal peak in demand for dealers in anticipation of the Christmas season," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

Bunye expressed optimism the peso would bounce back. "We expect the inflow of overseas Filipino workers' funds during the last quarter which should even things out."

Traders said the peso was weighed down by maturing oil payments and other quarter-end corporate requirements.

Currency traders said trading at the Philippine Dealing System in the past few days was adversely affected by maturing instruments under the Currency Risk Protection Program (CRPP) of the BSP.

Forward contract

The CRPP facility is a nondeliverable forward contract (NDF) between the BSP and a commercial bank with the foreign exchange obligations of the latter's clients as the underlying transaction.

The facility was intended to relieve the pressure on the spot market created by market players wanting to front load their future foreign currency requirements and by borrowers wanting to cover foreign currency obligations.

The opening of the CRPP in December 1997 did much to return calm to the foreign exchange market in the following years. Its coverage was expanded in October 2000 to include oil imports.

Spot market

However, traders said that during the settlement of maturing CRPPs, banks would still have to buy from the spot market. They said a lot of those instruments were maturing in recent days, thus adding to the demand for the greenback.

Hedge

One trader said a big portion of the maturing CRPPs was meant to hedge against rising oil prices.

"Remember that the country's oil bill has doubled. Last year, the oil price was only at $24-$27 per barrel, but now it has reached $40-$43," said Equitable PCI Bank chief dealer Marcelo Ayes, who is the president of the Association Cambiste International-Philippine chapter.

"Last year, I remember that the regular dollar requirement for oil imports was about $250 million. Now, this has risen to $400 million," Ayes said.

Intervention unlikely

However, he said the 56.45 support for the peso would likely hold, especially because the BSP had the capability to arrest the depreciation if it wanted to. Even if the all-time low were breached, a free fall was not likely to happen, he said.

"At 46.50, the dollar has reached its overbought level," Ayes said.

He said that despite the peso depreciation yesterday, the market did not see any intervention from the BSP.

"It did not appear necessary because the depreciation was not too big," he said.

Investor confidence

Luz Lorenzo, economist at ATR-Kim Eng Securities, said a temporary peso depreciation would not harm the local corporate sector.

She said the peso depreciation did not seem to dampen investor confidence because the local stock market and even the bond market for Philippine risk were doing well.

Rising oil prices

Lorenzo agreed with the observation that the rising oil prices were a bigger factor behind the depreciation than the narrowing of interest rate differential between the Philippines and the United States following another 25-basis point cut in key rates by the US Federal Reserve.

"I believe our risk premium has narrowed significantly since the (May presidential) elections, but we can't do anything about the rising oil prices," Lorenzo said.

Back by popular demand! CEBU PACIFIC'S

3-DAY SEAT SALE

OCTOBER 1,2&3,2004

From Manila it's now P1,299 (one-way) to any destination in the Visayas*

And only P1,899 (one-way) to any point in Mindanao.**

With our renowned on-time service and special low fares, you'll have time & money on your hands.

MECHANICS:

- Tickets purchased during the promo period can be used only during the travel period of October 4 to 22, 2004.
- Tickets are non-endorsable, non-transferable and non-refundable.
- Tickets are rebookable within the travel period but subject to rebooking fee of P100.
- Tickets are reroutable and upgradable to valid higher fare type within the travel period but subject to applicable charges and collection of fare difference.
- Reissuance of tickets must be done within the travel period.
- PTA (Pre-paid ticket advise) not allowed.
- Other promotions such as regular discounts may not apply during the same promo period.
- Not applicable to groups.
- Open dated tickets are allowed during the travel period.
- The discounted airline rates shall apply to both adults and children.
- Available at Cebu Pacific's ticket offices, General Sales Agents and accredited sub-agents. (Express Ticket Office at the Manila Domestic airport is not included)

OVER 95% ON-TIME FLIGHTS

CEBU PACIFIC
WE'RE GOING YOUR WAY.

*For bookings, call (632) 6364938 or text "CEB" to 2982 for Globe and Touch Mobile, 386 for Smart, Talk 'N Text and Addict Mobile; and for Sun Cellular, text "CEB" to 2982 or click on the directory of "The Mall."
**Same rates apply to Visayas-Manila and Mindanao-Manila routes.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4779 Series of 2004.

EZ2 8 17

SUERTRES 4 9 0

FOUR DIGIT 3 8 1 4

(In exact order)

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Desk Editors Cenon B. Bibe, Ester G. Dipasupil

Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

MEGALOTTO 6/45

3 20 23 35 42 45

Special food lanes for veggie trucks

By Margaux C. Ortiz

STARTING next week, owners of vegetable trucks on their way to Metro Manila need not worry about spoiled produce because of the truck ban.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and the Department of Agriculture (DA) yesterday signed a memorandum of agreement establishing 24-hour food lanes for agricultural and fishery products.

With the food lanes, the vegetable trucks would be exempted from the truck ban in designated routes.

"This is a breakthrough because most people are unaware of the logistics of food transport," Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said in a press conference at the MMDA office.

Yap said only four percent of the actual price of a particular agricultural product goes to the farmers, while the rest is for transport and retail costs.

DA official Salvador Salacup said that under the existing setup, trucks wait at gasoline stations in expressways while the ban is in effect.

Salacup said they recorded 30 percent of post-harvest losses because of spoilage.

"With the food lanes, we would be able to reduce these losses and increase the farmers' income," Salacup said.

Nestor Fongwan of the North Luzon Agri-Fishing Group said the food lane project would pave the way for the continuous flow of vegetable supplies from the remotest part of the Cordillera Administrative Region to Metro Manila, the Visayas and Mindanao.

"Before this agreement, farmers had to wait for the proper time to transport their produce for fear of spoilage," Fongwan said.

Lyndon Tan, who represented vegetable growers from Tagaytay, said the project would ultimately benefit consumers because the prices of vegetables could go down by as much as 12 percent.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said they would ensure that only accredited vegetable trucks would be given special stickers to prevent unscrupulous individuals from transporting contraband and illegal products into the metropolis.

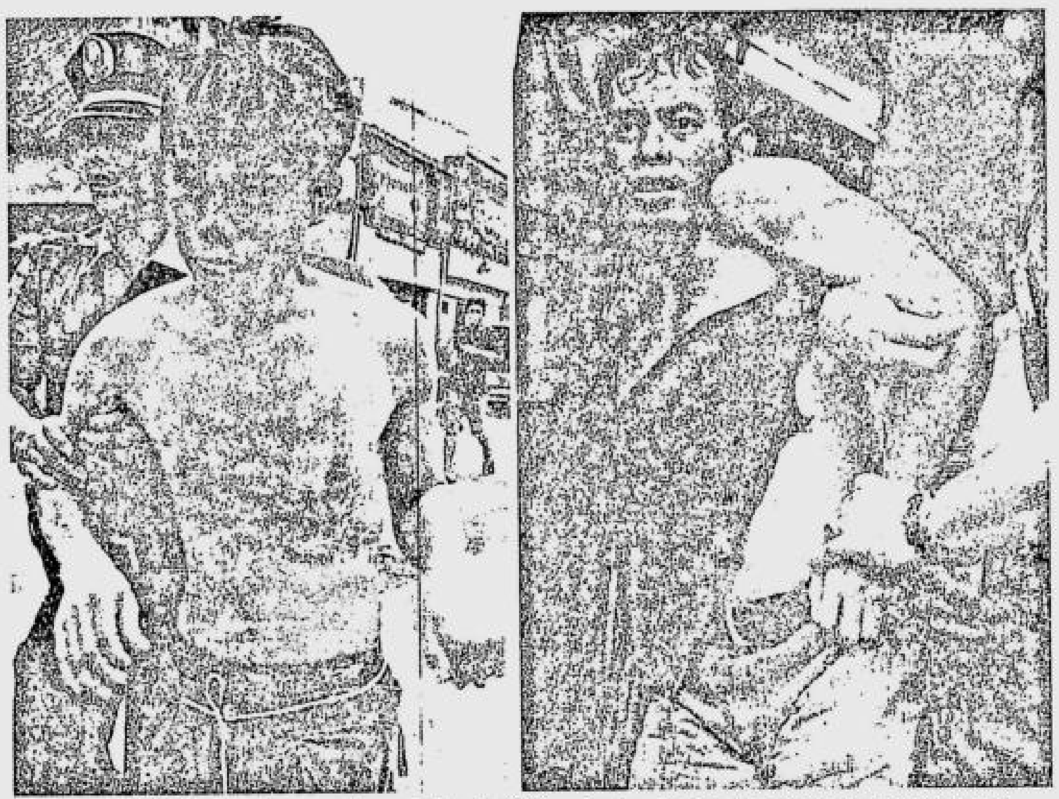
"The existence of the food lanes would have a minimal effect on Metro Manila's traffic," he added.

The MMDA approved four alternate routes for the project, Fernando said.

Trucks could pass from the NLEX to A. Bonifacio then unload in Balintawak, go back to A. Bonifacio passing through C-3, then left to R-10 going straight to Divisoria.

Trucks could also pass from NLEX to A. Bonifacio, take a U-turn to Cloverleaf then right to Quirino Highway then right to Tandang Sora Avenue going to Katipunan straight to Libis, all the way to C-5, then to the Southern Luzon Expressway (SLEX).

The MMDA also approved the route from NLEX to A. Bonifacio. Trucks could take a U-turn to Cloverleaf then right to Quirino Highway, right to Tandang Sora Avenue then right to Mindanao Avenue, left to North Avenue to Elliptical Road going to Don Mariano Avenue to University Avenue, straight to C.P. Garcia going to Katipunan straight to Libis, all the way to C-5 to SLEX.



HIS HARROWING morning over, Herculo Acuña (left) smiles in relief shortly after police captured his cousin, Cornelio Macaranas (right) who took Acuña hostage inside their house in Sta. Cruz, Manila yesterday.

EDWIN BACASMAS

What he did for love

By Leila B. Salaverria

UNREQUITED love drove Cornelio Macaranas to hold his cousin hostage for four hours yesterday, after a weekend-long drinking session failed to drown his grief.

Fortunately for both, the incident ended peacefully after Macaranas' cousin, Herculano Acuña, managed to slip away when the suspect reached for a bottle of water as negotiations for his surrender with police were ongoing. Macaranas, a helper at an auto supply store, was subsequently grabbed by police who had surrounded their house.

Macaranas held the 23-year-old Acuña at knife point and had refused to let him out of their home on Old Antipolo Street.

Nelda Golpo, who shares the house with the two men, both her cousins, said the two had been drinking beer since Saturday. Around 11 p.m. of Sunday, Macaranas turned silent and was staring off into space, she said.

Acuña later called Golpo's attention yesterday morning, saying that Macaranas was poking a knife at him and had told him not to leave the room. Macaranas had grabbed Acuña and wrapped a sleeping mat around them, a knife pointed at his cousin's waist.

Police and a Special Weapons and Tactics team arrived around 8 a.m. to ask Macaranas to give up. Later, the suspect indicated that he wanted to speak to his mother in Surigao City. As he reached out for a cell phone and a bottle of mineral water, Acuña escaped from his cousin's grip. The suspect was immediately subdued by police. Macaranas admitted that he had been upset when he found out that his girlfriend was set to marry another man.

Still dazed from the experience, Acuña said the incident had fouled up his schedule for the week. Scheduled for a job interview yesterday at a department store in Cavite, he did not make it to the appointment.

An appeal from Strunk

By Philip C. Tubeza

ROD LAUREN Strunk, husband of slain actress Nida Blanca, has asked the Court of Appeals to reconsider its decision denying his petition to quash the murder case against him for the killing of his wife in November 2001.

Strunk, through his lawyers, said that the appellate court erred in saying that the extra-judicial confession of his co-accused, Philip Medel Jr., could be used as corroborative evidence against him. Strunk is now in the United States.

The case filed almost two years ago in the Pasig City Regional Trial Court had not progressed, with the prosecution presenting only two witnesses, Strunk said.

He added that proceeding with the case with "shaky evidence" would be an injustice to him.

Slay suspect no stranger to jail

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THE MAIN suspect in the killing of journalist Jose Villanueva had been in and out of jail for the past five years.

Villanueva, assistant business editor of Today, was stabbed in the neck inside a passenger bus in Pasay City Thursday midnight when he refused to give his cell phone to robbers.

Rommel Capones 21, accused of stabbing Villanueva, had been charged with several crimes since 1996.

He was arrested Friday afternoon while playing basketball on Lawaan Street, Barrio Santo Nino, Pasay City.

Chief Insp. Joaquin Alva said Capones has several pending cases in various branches of the Regional Trial Court in Pasay City. Only last Sept. 5 , he was released after posting a P100,000 bail for a robbery case.

Alva said Capones also has a pending murder case, but was allowed bail after his lawyer succeeded in having the charge downgraded to homicide for the killing of William Chua in Nov. 23, 2003. The suspect is also involved in a drug-related case pending before the Regional Trial Court Branch 116 in Pasay City filed in June this year.

Senior Insp. Joey Goforth, city police intelligence chief, identified the two other arrested suspects as Henry Lizardo, 24, and Gerry Cecilio , 26, residents of Pasay City.

They were positively identified by five witnesses: a bus passenger, the bus driver and conductor, a pedicab driver, and a barangay kagawad.

Pasay City Chief prosecutor Francisco Beron said the three, who have been charged with robbery and homicide, could face "the penalty of reclusion perpetua to death" as provided in Article 294 of the Revised Penal Code.

Lizardo and Cecilio, alleged to be members of the Sigue-Sigue Sputnik gang, would also be charged with illegal possession of explosives and deadly weapons. No bail had been recommended for the three.

METROBRIEFS

3 die in QC fire

A FATHER and his two children were charred to death after they were trapped inside their burning home early yesterday morning in Quezon City. The victims were identified as Cesar Subillaga, 37, his daughter Sarah, 10, and his son John Jacob, 8, all of Del Monte Avenue corner Cordillera, Barangay Saint Peter. Initial investigation showed that the fire broke out from the ground floor main entrance of the three-story commercial and residential apartment around 4 a.m. The ground floor housed Subilaga's upholstery shop, while the second and third floor served as the victims' residence. The apartment was owned by a certain Vicente Uy but leased by Subillaga. The fire quickly spread since combustible upholstery materials were stacked inside the apartment. Firefighters put out the blaze after two hours, and damage was estimated at about P5 million. Investigators said they have yet to determine the exact cause of the fire. Some witnesses claimed that a tricycle parked in front of the building, allegedly set on fire by still unknown suspects, could have started the blaze. Authorities were not also ruling out faulty electrical wiring as the cause of the fire.

Tina G. Santos

Gastro kills 1, downs 9

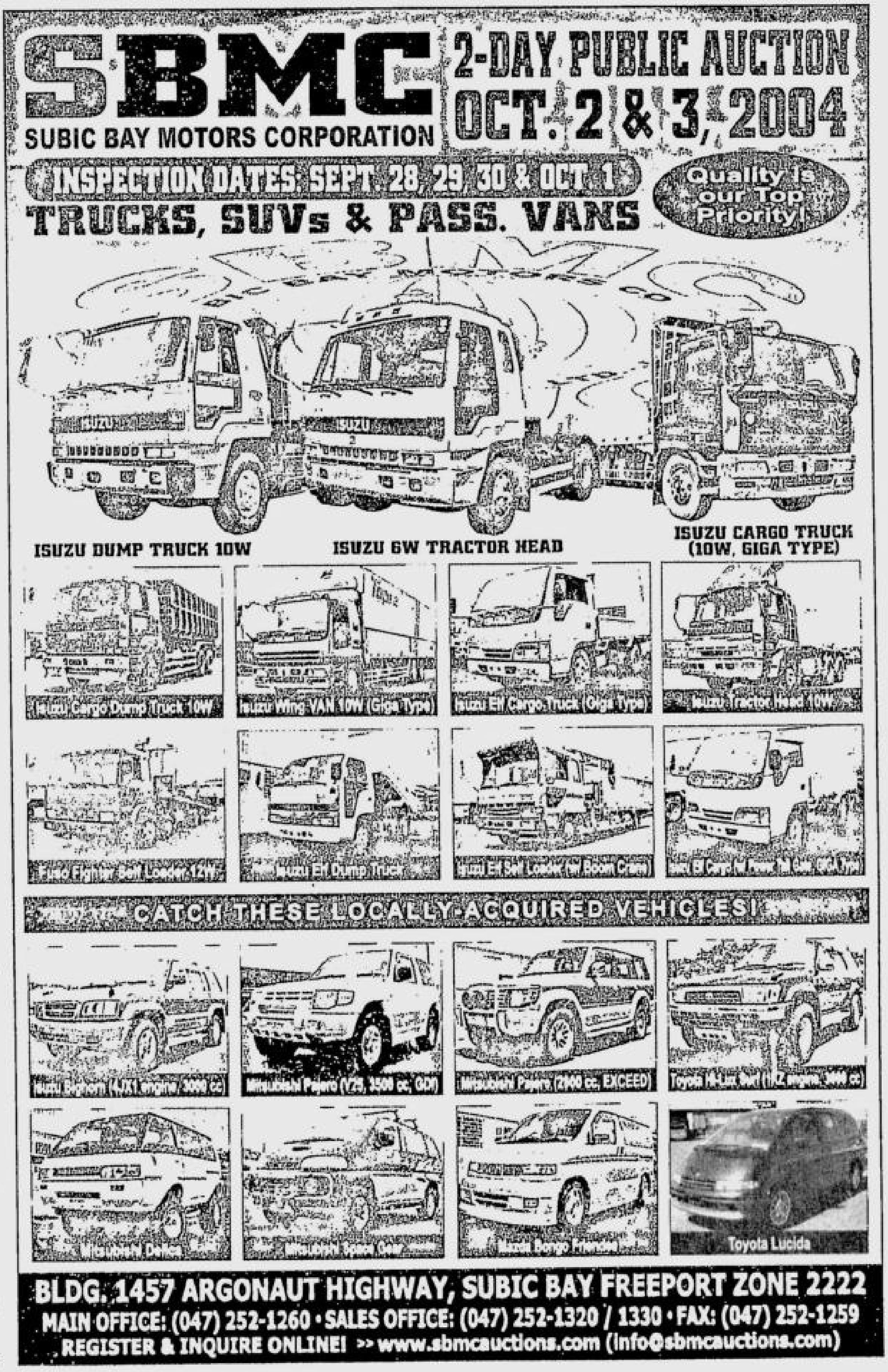
A WATER-BORNE disease has killed a 13-year-old girl and downed nine others—mostly children—in Antipolo City since Friday, local health officials said. The victims suffered from gastroenteritis and amoebiasis, according to Dr. Alfredo Paspe Jr., chief of the Antipolo Community Hospital. Some of the symptoms of the diseases include abdominal pains and watery wastes. If not immediately attended to, these eventually lead to dehydration, which in turn, could cause the death of a patient. The hospital identified the lone fatality as Marife Austria, 13, of Sitio Maligaya, Barangay San Jose. Also rushed to the hospital were Rosemarie Corpin, 2; Melanie Corpin, 7; Myla Legazpi, 14; Rizza Mae Beredo, 8 months old; Jay-Ann Aninuevo, 1; Alessandra Chavit, 7 months old; Enrico Borromeo, 7 months old; Romel Bicomo, 4; and Catherine Recto, 22. Except for Bicomo and Beredo, who are from Barangay San Roque, the rest are from Sitio Maligaya, hospital officials said. Paspe said some of the parents in the area had refused to heed the advice of local health officials to boil water that they get from the well in Sitio Malaya.

Luige del Puerto

Cops kill 6 rob suspects

POLICE and the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (NAKTF) shot and killed six men believed to be part of a robbery gang Monday night in Antipolo City, officials said. The Rizal Provincial Police said the shootout took place on Sumulong Highway at around 6 p.m. Rizal police chief Senior Supt. Leocadio Santiago said Central Police District cops had tailed the suspects from Cubao, Quezon City, after receiving reports of a possible bank robbery. "When they tried to accost the suspects, they sped away," Santiago said. Santiago said his men put up a roadblock on Sumulong Highway and "it was [there] the encounter took place." When the smoke cleared, all the suspects were dead. A member of NAKTF was wounded in the leg. The suspects were allegedly members of the Haso-Haso Group, a notorious robbery and kidnapping group

Luige A. del Puerto



SBMC
SUBIC BAY MOTORS CORPORATION
2-DAY PUBLIC AUCTION
OCT. 2 & 3, 2004
INSPECTION DATES: SEPT. 28, 29, 30 & OCT. 1
TRUCKS, SUVs & PASS. VANS
Quality is our Top Priority!
ISUZU DUMP TRUCK 10W
ISUZU 6W TRACTOR HEAD
ISUZU CARGO TRUCK (10W, GIGA TYPE)
CATCH THESE LOCALLY-ACQUIRED VEHICLES!
BLDG. 1457 ARGONAUT HIGHWAY, SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE 2222
MAIN OFFICE: (047) 252-1260 • SALES OFFICE: (047) 252-1320 / 1330 • FAX: (047) 252-1259
REGISTER & INQUIRE ONLINE! >> www.sbmcauctions.com (info@sbmcauctions.com)

Isuzu Cargo Dump Truck 10W
Isuzu Wing VAN 10W (Giga Type)
Isuzu Elf Cargo Truck (Giga Type)
Isuzu Tractor Head 10W
Fuso Fighter Self Loader 12W
Isuzu Elf Dump Truck
Isuzu Elf Self Loader w/ Boom Crane
Mitsubishi Pajero (2800 cc, EXCEED)
Mitsubishi Delica
Mitsubishi Space Gear
Mazda Bongo Friendee
Toyota Lucida

VVT-i

100 REASONS

why you should buy a REVO or RAV4

1. They're sporty
2. They're versatile
3. Either will make you look good
4. Adds 100 pogi points
5. Easy to drive
6. They're from Toyota
7. They're dependable
8. They're reliable
9. Either can take you to the mall
10. So you have a vehicle to park at the Podium
11. A vehicle to take to the car wash
12. A good looking vehicle to take to the gasoline station
13. So you can go to the office without smelling bad
14. So you can go to the office without getting wet
15. So you can go to the office without getting mugged
16. Even if you go home late, you don't have to worry
17. No more haggling for taxi fare
18. Good for lolo
19. Good for lola
20. They're spacious
21. Good for long trips
22. Great for short distance travel
23. Can be used for transporting big cargos
24. Can be used to pick up chicks
25. Can be used to take Bruno the Rottweiler to the vet
26. They're very cool to drive
27. Great for barkada trips
28. Excellent for taking Aimee to cooking class
29. Can be driven in rough road
30. High clearance -Iwas baha
31. Can be used to pull heavy things
32. For lipat-bahay
33. Shopping
34. Porma-tambay
35. For drive-through
36. For stargazing
37. They're fuel efficient
38. Lasts a long time
39. They come in different colors
40. They come in different variants
41. Could be used to fetch kids
42. Could be used to fetch Tita
43. Could be used to fetch Tito
44. Drive Aileen to work
45. Great for hauling
46. They're stylish
47. Pangpa-macho
48. Pangpa-gwapo
49. Either can take you to the ball game
50. Either can take you to the badminton game

51. Either can take you to the bowling game
52. Either can take you to the soccer field
53. Both can drive you to the movie house
54. Both can drive you to the beach
55. Both can take you trekking to the mountains
56. Either can drive you to the province
57. Both can take you kayaking in the rivers
58. Either is good for city driving
59. Either can take you to the office
60. Either can take you to your barkada's house
61. Either can take you to your girlfriend's house
62. Good for Pampanga trips
63. Good for delivering books
64. Good for delivering itlog na pula
65. Great for delivering shoes
66. Great for delivering clothes
67. Can be used to take ate to the delivery room
68. Good for transporting chairs
69. Transporting beds
70. Transporting pillows
71. School service for OB
72. Office service for Cherrie
73. So you can make your own way
74. Make your friends happy
75. So you can do car-pooling
76. So you can pick up your long time crush
77. So you can have a place to cry
78. A place to shout when you're pissed at work
79. A place to sleep when you're locked outside your house
80. A place to eat with your girlfriend
81. So you can go to Baguio without commuting
82. Go to Tagaytay with tatay
83. Go to Ilocos without being harassed
84. Good place to hide
85. Good place to take a nap
86. Make Mama proud
87. Make your neighbors envy
88. Make Anne say "Wow!"
89. They have excellent Toyota engines
90. They have great safety features
91. They can make you look bigger
92. Either can protect you from rain
93. Either can make your date like you more
94. Both can make you look strong
95. Either can be a great gift
96. So your mother-in-law won't look down on you anymore
97. So your sexy neighbor will ride with you more often
98. Maybe either can help you get a girlfriend
99. Maybe either can help you get a boyfriend
100. They're wonderful vehicles

FOR AS LOW AS

₱100K!*

**The Toyota REVO and RAV4. Reliable. Dependable. Versatile.
There's practically a hundred ways of using these lifestyle vehicles.**

***Own one and do what you please for as low as P100,000 down payment.**

RAV 4

VARIANT	SRP	LOW DP	12	18	24	36	48	60
RAV4 4x4 (7.89% dp) A/T	1,268,000	100,000	102,240	70,338	55,805	40,205	32,804	27,836
RAV4 4x4 (50% dp)	1,268,000	634,000	53,784	36,915	29,237	20,973	17,044	14,401
RAV4 4x2 (9.54% dp) M/T	1,048,000	100,000	82,393	56,684	44,979	32,405	26,440	22,433
RAV4 4x2 (50% dp)	1,048,000	524,000	43,913	30,140	23,877	17,128	13,919	11,758

REVO

VARIANT	SRP	LOW DP	12	18	24	36	48	60
VX200 2.0 GAS A/T	970,000	100,000	74,910	51,536	40,902	29,468	24,043	20,396
VX240 2.4 DSL	958,000	100,000	76,507	52,635	41,745	30,075	24,539	20,830
SR 1.8 GAS A/T	896,000	100,000	68,235	46,944	37,260	26,844	21,903	18,578
GSX 2.0 GAS A/T	847,000	100,000	63,815	43,902	34,849	25,107	20,485	17,375
GLX 1.8 GAS A/T	807,000	100,000	60,206	41,420	32,881	23,689	19,328	16,392
GL GAS	698,000	100,000	50,373	34,655	27,517	19,824	16,175	13,715
DLX GAS (15.08%dp)	663,000	100,000	47,216	32,483	25,794	18,584	15,163	12,855
DLX GAS (50%dp)	663,000	331,500	27,625	18,417	14,261	10,230	8,313	7,014
DLX DSL	690,000	100,000	52,331	36,002	28,556	20,573	16,786	14,248

FINANCING DEALS:

- **Down payment for as low as P100,000 for all participating REVO and RAV4 variants.**
- **Low monthly payments of P11,758 for the RAV4 4x2 for 60 months at 50% down payment.**
- **Low monthly payments of P14,401 for the RAV4 4x4 for 60 months at 50% down payment.**
- **Low monthly payments of only P7,014 for the REVO DLX Gas for 60 months at 50% down payment.**
- **Low monthly interest rates.**

For areas covered by Toyota Financial Services

TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES

FOR A TOYOTA, GO TO TOYOTA.

Promo period is from September 16 to 30, 2004.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2067 Series of 2004.

TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES 858-8500
TOYOTA ALABANG, INC., Alabang-Zapote Rd. cor. Concha Cruz Drive 800-0801 to 32 / 802-1991 **TOYOTA BACOLOD CITY**, Gardenville Subdivision, Aranola St., Bacolod City (034) 444-1811 to 13 **TOYOTA BAGUIO CITY**, Bokawkan Road cor. Aguila St., Baguio City (074) 447-0851 / (074) 300-3273 to 74 / (074) 300-4128 / 3825 / (074) 443-0778 **TOYOTA BALINTAWAK, INC.**, EDSA cor. Vicente Ang & Gen. Evangelista Sts., Kalookan City 366-8901 to 06 / 364-1547 to 50 / 364-4071 to 75 **TOYOTA BALINTAWAK-NORTH**, 1010 Epifanio De Los Santos Ave. (EDSA), Quezon City 927-7215 / 17 / 30 / 39 / 927-7242 / 44 / 48 / 52 / 927-7257 / 62 / 65 / 927-7268 / 69 **TOYOTA BATANGAS CITY, INC.** Diversion Road, Barangay Balagtas, Batangas City (043) 723-7386 / (043) 723-7639 **TOYOTA CABANATUAN CITY, INC.** Km. 118 Maharlika Highway, Daang Sarile, Cabanatuan City (044) 463-8481 to 87 **TOYOTA CAGAYAN DE ORO, INC.**, Km. 3 National Highway, Kauswagan, Cagayan de Oro City (08822) 735-770 / 791 / 846 / (088) 858-9994 / (088) 858-7770 (08822) 737-480 **TOYOTA CEBU CITY, INC.**, 34 M.J. Cuenco St., Cebu City (032) 253-1161 **TOYOTA CEBU-MANDAUE**, Tabok, Mandaue City (032) 345-8670 **TOYOTA COMMONWEALTH**, Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City 952-1021 to 27 **TOYOTA CUBAO, INC.**, 926 Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City 911-0651 to 63 **TOYOTA DAGUPAN CITY, INC.**, Diversion Road, Barangay San Miguel, Calasiao, Pangasinan (075) 517-2026 to 28 / (075) 522-0771 / 6734 / 4773 **TOYOTA DASMARIÑAS CAVITE**, Salitran II, Aguinaldo Highway, Dasmariñas, Cavite (046) 850-2507 / (02) 529-8115 (trunk line) **TOYOTA DAVAO CITY, INC.** Km. 6 Lanang, Davao City (082) 234-0008 / (082) 234-2994 / (082) 234-8640 **TOYOTA ILOILO CITY, INC.**, Gran Plains Subd., Jaro, Iloilo City (033) 320-6115 to 19 **TOYOTA MAKATI INC.**, Ayala cor. Metropolitan Avenues, Makati City 897-3333 **TOYOTA MANILA BAY CORP.**, Roxas Boulevard cor. EDSA Extension, Pasay City 832-3408 to 10 / 832-3432 to 34 / 832-3384 / 832-3437 **TOYOTA MARIKINA SERVICE STATION**, Brgy. Sto. Niño, Sumulong Highway cor. Toyota Ave., Marikina City 682-9701 to 03 **TOYOTA OTIS, INC.**, 1770 Paz M. Guazon St., Paco, Manila 564-1811 to 20 **TOYOTA PASONG TAMO, INC.**, 2292 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City 893-8084 **TOYOTA QUEZON AVENUE, INC.**, 728 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City 712-5001 to 06 **TOYOTA SHAW, INC.**, 309 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City 532-4132 / 532-8428 / 534-3009 (telefax) **TOYOTA SHAW-ORTIGAS**, 124 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Bo. Ugong, Pasig City 671-9854 to 64 / 671-0460

www.toyota.com.ph

TOYOTA

Rechargeable Kyowalite
LASTS UP TO 6 HOURS!
kyowa

4 DAYS NA LANG
PBA sa ABC
LABAN NA!

Bondad relative lambasts NGAP

By Musong R. Castillo

A RELATIVE of Frances Bondad yesterday blasted the National Golf Association of the Philippines for dropping the reigning RP Ladies' champion from the World Amateur lineup due to what it said was conflict with her studies in Australia.

"It's not true that the schedule of training and the World Amateur will interfere with her schooling. She was granted a leave from school for one and a half months just to play for the Philippine team," said Dinah Briones, an aunt of Bondad, in Filipino.

"What happened is that they (NGAP) did not exert enough effort to help her (Frances) secure her Philippine passport when she has all the documents that they required beforehand."

Briones has been talking with NGAP officials since Bondad, who is an honor student, received the invitation to play in Puerto Rico. She added Frances was assured of an RP passport by the NGAP as early as last month.

But the process has taken a long time and the NGAP later required Bondad's parents to appear before the Bureau of Immigration for authentication purposes.

Bondad was born in Los Angeles and now lives with her parents in Australia.

She holds both an American and an Australian passport but she would have been eligible for the RP team had she been able to secure a Philippine passport.

"They could have taken this to Malacañang if they wanted."

BONDAD

The INQUIRER received an e-mail from Noel Bondad, Frances' father, saying some "bureaucratic bungles" led to the ouster of his daughter, whom, he said, cried all night after learning that she was stricken off the RP team.

But Luisito Fernandez of the NGAP said Bondad's parents were to blame.

"We really wanted to make Bondad a principal member of the team. Her parents' not being able to make it here spelled the difference," he said.

Meanwhile, a five-man RP team composed of Tommy Manotoc, Richie Garcia, Caloy Coscoluella, Bing Bunyi and Iggy Clavecilla will see action starting today in the Asia Pacific Seniors Amateur championship at the Raffle Country Club in Singapore.

The tournament will be played over 54 holes with teams from the United States and New Zealand as favorites.

New UAAP criteria for coach

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE COACH of the Year award automatically goes to the winning mentor of the Far Eastern University-De La Salle showdown this Thursday for the UAAP varsity basketball championship at the Araneta Coliseum.

PUMAREN

The UAAP Board issued this clarification yesterday in the wake of reports that there was a last-minute change in the criteria for the selection of the coach of the year.

"The UAAP technical committee had decided early on that the Coach of the Year Award will be given to the coach of the champion team. We had a meeting with the Final Four coaches last Sept. 13 and told them about it," said UAAP president Danny Jose.

The Coach of the Year was originally picked by the members of the media, who were obviously not informed of the change in the criteria and went on to pick University of the East's Dindo Pumaren, who beat brother Franz by a single ballot, for the award.

Dindo was even present when the UAAP honored the league's top individual performers Sunday to receive the award.

"Everyone was congratulating me already. After the awards, I went into the La Salle dugout and (my brother) Franz congratulated me, *pero sabi ko wala pala* (but I said there was no award after all)," said Pumaren, who took all the confusion in stride.

Jose said the Board wasn't aware that media votes were cast to decide the top coach.

PBA awaits DOJ ruling on Fil-Ams

By June Navarro

THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association said yesterday it would wait for the findings of the Department of Justice before making a move on the controversial Filipino-foreign players issue.

PBA Chair Buddy Encarnado said the Board of Governors would submit itself to the jurisdiction of the DOJ and abide by the decision it would hand down on the nine Fil-fors who allegedly hold spurious citizenship documents.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales has already formed a task force to review the cases of the Fil-fors led by Asi Taulava of Talk 'N Text and Red Bull's Mick Pennisi and Davonn Harp, who the Senate recommended to be deported a year ago.

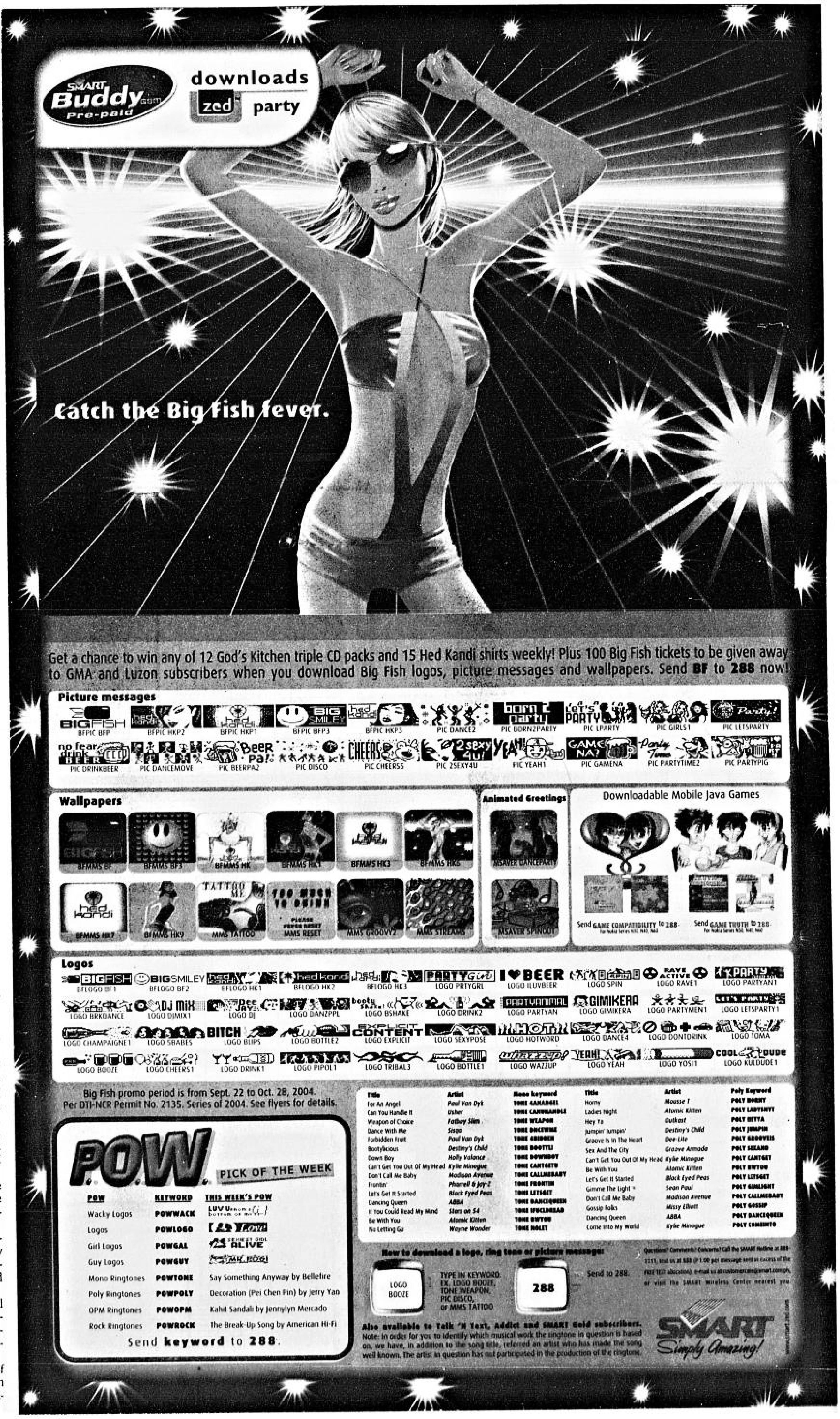
"The board has decided to respect the process, abide by the rule of law and await any decision to be made by the DOJ," said commissioner Noli Eala after the six-hour board meeting.

Eala, who presented a lengthy report on the Fil-fors before the board, added the league would be willing to work with the DOJ to immediately solve the crisis.

Other Fil-fors recommended for summary deportation were Coca-Cola's Rafi Reavis and Rudy Hatfield, Alex Crisano and Andy Seigle of Barangay Ginebra, San Miguel Beer's Dorian Peña and Jon Ordonio of Red Bull.

If found guilty by the DOJ, these players will automatically be disallowed to play for their respective ballclubs but can appeal the verdict before the BI executes summary deportation proceedings.

Meanwhile, Red Bull reportedly walked out of its game against a Korean squad in the fourth Shell Invitational Basketball tournament because of lousy officiating.


SMART Buddy.com Pre-paid
downloads zed party
Catch the Big Fish fever.

Get a chance to win any of 12 God's Kitchen triple CD packs and 15 Hed Kandi shirts weekly! Plus 100 Big Fish tickets to be given away to GMA and Luzon subscribers when you download Big Fish logos, picture messages and wallpapers. Send **BF** to **288** now!

Picture messages
BFPIC BFP · BFPIC HKP2 · BFPIC HKP1 · BFPIC BFP3 · BFPIC HKP3 · PIC DANCE2 · PIC BORN2PARTY · PIC LPARTY · PIC GIRLS1 · PIC LETSPARTY
PIC DRINKBEER · PIC DANCEMOVE · PIC BEERPA2 · PIC DISCO · PIC CHEERS5 · PIC 2SEXY4U · PIC YEAH1 · PIC GAMENA · PIC PARTYTIME2 · PIC PARTYPIG

Wallpapers
BFMMS BF · BFMMS BF3 · BFMMS HK · BFMMS HK1 · BFMMS HK3 · BFMMS HK6
BFMMS HK7 · BFMMS HK9 · MMS TATTOO · MMS RESET · MMS GROOVY2 · MMS STREAMS

Animated Greetings
MSAVER DANCEPARTY
MSAVER SPINOUT

Downloadable Mobile Java Games
Send GAME COMPATIBILITY to 288. For Nokia Series N30, N40, N60
Send GAME TRUTH to 288. For Nokia Series N30, N40, N60

Logos
BFLOGO BF1 · BFLOGO BF2 · BFLOGO HK1 · BFLOGO HK2 · BFLOGO HK3 · LOGO PRTYGRL · LOGO ILUVBEER · LOGO SPIN · LOGO RAVE1 · LOGO PARTYAN1
LOGO BRKDANCE · LOGO DJMIX1 · LOGO DJ · LOGO DANZPPL · LOGO BSHAKE · LOGO DRINK2 · LOGO PARTYAN · LOGO GIMIKERA · LOGO PARTYMEN1 · LOGO LETSPARTY1
LOGO CHAMPAIGNE1 · LOGO SBABES · LOGO BLIPS · LOGO BOTTLE2 · LOGO EXPLICIT · LOGO SEXYPOSE · LOGO HOTWORD · LOGO DANCE4 · LOGO DONTDRINK · LOGO TOMA
LOGO BOOZE · LOGO CHEERS1 · LOGO DRINK1 · LOGO PIPOL1 · LOGO TRIBAL3 · LOGO BOTTLE1 · LOGO WAZZUP · LOGO YEAH · LOGO YOSI1 · LOGO KULDUDE1

Big Fish promo period is from Sept. 22 to Oct. 28, 2004.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2135. Series of 2004. See flyers for details.

Title	Artist	Mono keyword	Title	Artist	Poly Keyword
For An Angel	Paul Van Dyk	TONE 4ANANGEL	Horny	Mousse T	POLY HORNY
Can You Handle It	Usher	TONE CANUHANDLE	Ladies Night	Atomic Kitten	POLY LADYSNITE
Weapon of Choice	Fatboy Slim	TONE WEAPON	Hey Ya	Outkast	POLY HEYYA
Dance With Me	Sisqo	TONE DNCEWME	Jumpin' Jumpin'	Destiny's Child	POLY JUMPIN
Forbidden Fruit	Paul Van Dyk	TONE 4BIDDEN	Groove Is In The Heart	Dee-Lite	POLY GROOVEIS
Bootylicious	Destiny's Child	TONE BOOTYLI	Sex And The City	Groove Armada	POLY SEXAND
Down Boy	Holly Valance	TONE DOWNBOY	Can't Get You Out Of My Head	Kylie Minogue	POLY CANTGET
Can't Get You Out Of My Head	Kylie Minogue	TONE CANTGETU	Be With You	Atomic Kitten	POLY BWYOU
Don't Call Me Baby	Madison Avenue	TONE CALLMEBABY	Let's Get It Started	Black Eyed Peas	POLY LETSGET
Frontin'	Pharrell & Jay-Z	TONE FRONTIN	Gimme The Light	Sean Paul	POLY GIMLIGHT
Let's Get It Started	Black Eyed Peas	TONE LETSGET	Don't Call Me Baby	Madison Avenue	POLY CALLMEBABY
Dancing Queen	ABBA	TONE DANCEQUEEN	Gossip Folks	Missy Elliott	POLY GOSSIP
If You Could Read My Mind	Stars on 54	TONE IFUCLDREAD	Dancing Queen	ABBA	POLY DANCEQUEEN
Be With You	Atomic Kitten	TONE BWYOU	Come Into My World	Kylie Minogue	POLY COMEINTO
No Letting Go	Wayne Wonder	TONE NOLET			

P.O.W. PICK OF THE WEEK

POW	KEYWORD	THIS WEEK'S POW
Wacky Logos	POWWACK	
Logos	POWLOGO	
Girl Logos	POWGAL	
Guy Logos	POWGUY	
Mono Ringtones	POWTONE	Say Something Anyway by Bellefire
Poly Ringtones	POWPOLY	Decoration (Pei Chen Pin) by Jerry Yan
OPM Ringtones	POWOPM	Kahit Sandali by Jennylyn Mercado
Rock Ringtones	POWROCK	The Break-Up Song by American Hi-Fi

Send **keyword** to **288**.

How to download a logo, ring tone or picture message:
LOGO BOOZE
TYPE IN KEYWORD. EX. LOGO BOOZE, TONE WEAPON, PIC DISCO, or MMS TATTOO
288
Send to 288.

Questions? Comments? Concerns? Call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, text us at 888 (P 1.00 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation), e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

Also available to Talk 'N Text, Addict and SMART Gold subscribers.
Note: In order for you to identify which musical work the ringtone in question is based on, we have, in addition to the song title, referred an artist who has made the song well known. The artist in question has not participated in the production of the ringtone.

SMART Simply Amazing!
www.smart.com.ph

movietime at SM CINEMA

NOW SHOWING

Central

SM MEGAMALL 6331901

1	BOURNE SUPREMACY
2	ANACONDAS
3	BOURNE SUPREMACY
4	FENG SHUI
5	13 GOING ON 30
6	AUSTRALIAN FILM FESTIVAL
7	SECRETARY
8	HEAVEN'S POND
9	TERMINAL
10	EXORCIST
11	NOTEBOOK
12	DODGEBALL

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	SECRETARY
2	TOOLBOX MURDERS
3	THE NOTEBOOK
4	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
5	ANACONDAS
6	FENG SHUI
7	BOURNE SUPREMACY
8	SAVED
9	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
10	MINDHUNTERS
11	13 GOING ON 30
12	THE TERMINAL

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
2	BOURNE SUPREMACY
3	THE NOTEBOOK
4	FENG SHUI
5	13 GOING ON 30
6	BOURNE SUPREMACY
7	HEAVEN'S POND
8	ANACONDAS
9	FENG SHUI
10	DODGEBALL
11	SAVED
12	TERMINAL

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	BOURNE SUPREMACY
2	13 GOING ON 30
3	FENG SHUI
4	THE TERMINAL
5	SAVED
6	HEAVEN'S POND
7	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
8	BOURNE SUPREMACY

SM CITY STA. MESA 7149522 • 7161416

1	PETA
2	SAVED
3	FENG SHUI
4	THE TERMINAL
5	BOURNE SUPREMACY
6	HEAVEN'S POND
7	13 GOING ON 30
8	BOURNE SUPREMACY
9	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
10	ANACONDAS

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN 2514302

1	BOURNE SUPREMACY
2	SECRETARY
3	FENG SHUI
4	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING

North

SM CITY MARILAO (044) 933 2013 to 17

1	13 GOING ON 30
2	THE TERMINAL
3	BOURNE SUPREMACY
4	FENG SHUI

SM CITY PAMPANGA 7128015

1	BOURNE SUPREMACY
2	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
3	ANACONDAS
4	TERMINAL
5	MINDHUNTERS
6	FENG SHUI

SM CITY BAGUIO (074) 4464505

1	DODGEBALL
2	FENG SHUI
3	CINE EUROPA
4	BOURNE SUPREMACY

South

SM CITY LAS PIÑAS 8066888

1	SAVED
2	13 GOING ON 30
3	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
4	BOURNE SUPREMACY
5	THE TERMINAL
6	MINDHUNTERS
7	FENG SHUI
8	BOURNE SUPREMACY
9	ANACONDAS
10	HEAVEN'S POND

SM CITY BICUTAN 7763055

1	BOURNE SUPREMACY
2	FENG SHUI
3	HEAVEN'S POND
4	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING

SM SUPER CENTER SUCAT 8294975

1	13 GOING ON 30
2	BOURNE SUPREMACY
3	FENG SHUI
4	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING

SM CITY BACOOR (046)4173868

1	MINDHUNTERS
2	NOTEBOOK
3	BOURNE SUPREMACY
4	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
5	ANACONDAS
6	FENG SHUI
7	13 GOING ON 30
8	THE TERMINAL

SM CITY DASMA (046) 4323201-04

1	13 GOING ON 30
2	FENG SHUI
3	MINDHUNTERS
4	BOURNE SUPREMACY

SM CITY LUCENA (042) 7108977-80

1	ANACONDAS
2	DODGEBALL
3	LAWS OF ATTRACTION
4	FENG SHUI

Visayas & Mindanao

SM CITY CEBU (032) 2313876

1	BOURNE SUPREMACY
2	BOURNE SUPREMACY
3	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
4	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
5	SPARTAN
6	TOOLBOX MURDERS
7	FENG SHUI
8	THE NOTEBOOK

SM CITY ILOILO (033) 3209422

1	ANACONDAS
2	RESERVED
3	THE TERMINAL
4	THE NOTEBOOK
5	LAWS OF ATTRACTION
6	FENG SHUI
7	RESERVED
8	DODGEBALL

SM CITY DAVAO (082) 2976958

1	BOURNE SUPREMACY
2	GODSEND
3	FENG SHUI
4	THE NOTEBOOK
5	DODGEBALL
6	BOURNE SUPREMACY

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO (088) 8592884

1	TERMINAL
2	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
3	FENG SHUI
4	ANACONDAS

THE PODIUM CINEMA

1
BOURNE SUPREMACY
10:50 FS/11:20 MF/
1:40/4:00/6:20/
8:40/10:30 LFS/
11:00 LMF/12:50 END

2
13 GOING ON 30
11:40 FS/12:10 MF/
2:20/4:30/6:40/
8:50/10:25 LFS/
11:00 LMF/12:40 END

For Seat Reservation, call 633 8976
LATE NIGHT SCREENING
DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

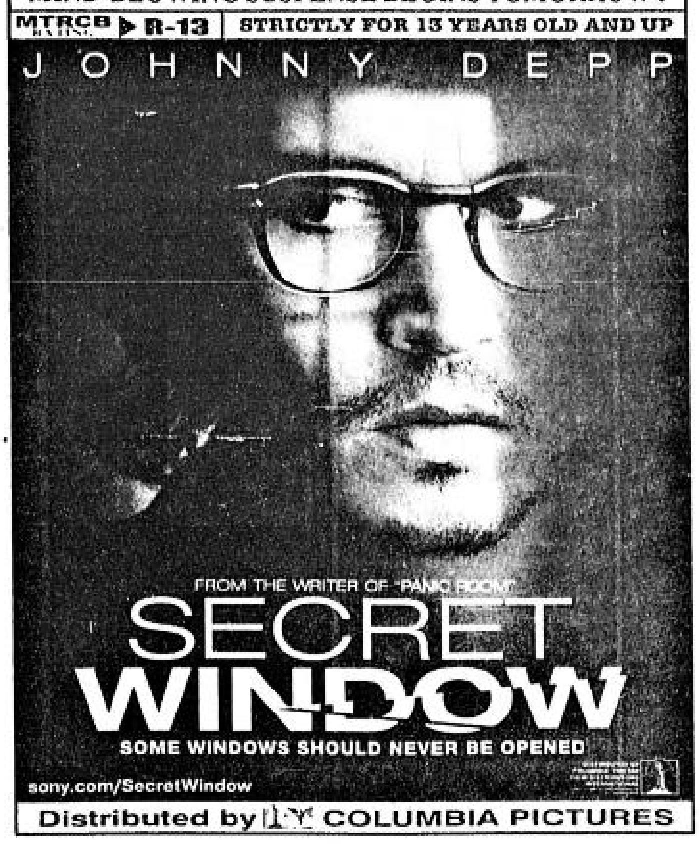
RESERVE-A-SEAT

Call 636-6800
for SM Megamall Cinema 1

SM CINEMA

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

"2 Thumbs Up!" - Ebert & Roeper
MIND-BLOWING SUSPENSE BEGINS TOMORROW!
MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OLD AND UP



JOHNNY DEPP
FROM THE WRITER OF "PANIC ROOM"
SECRET WINDOW
SOME WINDOWS SHOULD NEVER BE OPENED
sony.com/SecretWindow

Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

Spring Oil gains semis

SPRING Cooking Oil-Laguna pulled a major reversal in the 4th Shell Invitational basketball tournament Sunday in Brunei by beating Purefoods, 99-90, to make the semifinals.

The Cooking Oil Masters, top team in the North division of the regional NBC (National Basketball Conference) tournament and co-owned by shooting champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Laguna Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro, banked on import Keith Friel and shifty Robin Mendoza to shock the PBA team led by veteran Jun Limpot and Kerby Raymundo.

Spring-Laguna advanced to the round-robin semis together with Red Bull Barako, Korean pro team Hankook Raiders and Jones Cup champion You Lon Twisters of Taiwan.

"We're proud of the boys," chorused Padilla and Lazaro when told that their team made it to the semis. "They played against great odds, considering the experience and versatility of their rivals."

The Shanghai Sharks, Chinese Olympian Yao Ming's mother team, also failed to advance together with the Brunei national squad.

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
Telephone: 633.2227 / 633.7851 loc. 171

PREMIERE THEATRE
(DOLBY) THE BOURNE SUPREMACY PG-13

1 (DOLBY)	FENG SHUI PG-13
2 (DOLBY)	BOURNE SUPREMACY PG-13
3 (DOLBY)	THE TERMINAL GP
4 (DOLBY)	EXORCIST R-13

isetann SUPER CINERAMA
CINERAMA COMPLEX RECTO
tel 733.4236

1. (DOLBY)	THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
2.	FENG SHUI
3.	HEAVEN'S POND
4.	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
5.	TAKAW TINGIN

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	RESERVE
2	ANACONDAS
3	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS MAY BUMAYO
4 (SDDS)	TAKAW TINGIN
5	FENG SHUI
6 (DOLBY)	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
7 (DTS)	THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	FENG SHUI
2	THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
3	TAKAW TINGIN

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	TAKAW TINGIN
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
5	FENG SHUI

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	SECRETARY
2	TAKAW TINGIN
3	ANACONDAS
4	FENG SHUI
5 (DOLBY)	THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
6	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007

1 (DOLBY)	HOT SPOT
2	BIGLANG LIKO

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DTS)	FENG SHUI
2 (SDDS)	THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
3 (DTS)	THE TERMINAL
4 GOLD (DTS)	EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE NOTEBOOK
6 GOLD (SDDS)	THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	FENG SHUI
8	HEAVENS POND
9	SAVED
10	13 GOING ON 30

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta Center
ALI MALL CINEPLEX
Tel. 911-3101 loc. 8242 / 8281 / 8397

3 (Dolby)	FENG SHUI
4 (SDDS)	BOURNE SUPREMACY
5 (DTS)	EXORCIST
6 (Dolby)	HEAVEN'S POND
7 (Dolby)	MINDHUNTERS

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	FENG SHUI
2	MIND HUNTERS
3	RESERVED
4	TAKAW TINGIN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	BOURNE SUPREMACY
2	FENG SHUI
3 (DTS ES)	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	THE NOTEBOOK
2	FENG SHUI
3 (DOLBY)	BOURNE SUPREMACY
4 (DTS)	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	FENG SHUI
2	ANACONDAS
3 (DOLBY)	HAUNTED SPIRIT
4 (DTS)	ANACONDAS

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	ANACONDAS
2	FENG SHUI

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	FENG SHUI
2 (DOLBY)	THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
3 (DOLBY)	THE TERMINAL
4 (DOLBY)	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926

1	BIKTIMA
2	FENG SHUI
3 (DTS)	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	THUNDERBIRD
2 (DTS)	FENG SHUI
3 (DOLBY)	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
4	ANACONDAS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	FENG SHUI
2 (DOLBY)	THUNDERBIRD
3 (DTS)	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
4	BANGKOK HAUNTED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	STEPFORD WIVES
2	FENG SHUI
3 (DOLBY)	ANACONDAS

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	FENG SHUI
2	TOOLBOX MURDER
3 (DOLBY)	ANACONDAS
4 (DTS)	13 GOING ON 30

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 7957320

1	STEPFORD WIVES
2	FENG SHUI
3 (DOLBY)	13 GOING ON 30

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	THUNDERBIRD
2	TAMPISAW
3	TAKAW TINGIN
4 (DTS)	DEAD PEOPLE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
2	BIKTIMA
3 (DTS)	HOT SPOT
4	THUNDERBIRD
5	FENG SHUI

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3263

1	DODGEBALL
2	THE TERMINAL
3 (DTS)	ANACONDAS
4 (DOLBY)	FENG SHUI

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	FENG SHUI
2	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
3	TAG-INIT
4	THE TERMINAL

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	TAKAW TINGIN
2	DEAD PEOPLE

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Enzo pulls double over Jody

ROSARIO, Batangas—Enzo Pastor of Speedwelle Racing and Renan Morales scored impressive sweeps in their respective classes yesterday in the fifth round of the 2004 PCSO Grand Prix at the Batangas Racing Circuit here.

Pastor, displaying the skills as the country's biggest hope in F1 Racing, pulled a double against the country's premiere driver Jody Coseteng of Red Horse-Caltex Havoline in the National Touring Car Championship.

Morales, backed by Paragon Brokerage Corp. and Shift Racing, emerged as the day's winningest driver, bringing home four trophies with the same feat in the National Junior Touring Car Championship and Novice division.

Sharing the limelight was Michelle Bumgarner of Standard Racing and Ivan Carapiet of Edgesport who split honors in the Formula Toyota Cup.

Rey Reyes of Autoklasse likewise topped both races in the Class B division of the National Touring Car Championship over Dominic Bon and Oscar Aguilar of Caltex Havoline.

The event was sponsored by Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Toyota Motors Philippines, Norkis Yamaha, Kilton Motors and MOF Company.

Also supporting the event were Yokohama, Standard Insurance, Macnell Architectural Paints, NU 107, Dunkin' Donuts and Alaska.

Pastor, who owned the day's fastest lap time of one minute and 49.121 seconds, stuck close to the pole-sitting Coseteng during the first four laps. His patience paid off as he wrested the lead on the fifth lap and held on to it for good.

He clocked 18:56.308 in the eight-lap race, or a 4.358-second margin over Coseteng.

Rey Reyes of Autoklasse took third place in 19:10.273 while Ferdie Ong of Speedwelle Racing and Dominic Bon wound up fourth and fifth, respectively.

Laylo, Senador down foes, keep 1-2 nat'l chess spots

Men (after 14 rounds): 10.5—NM Laylo; 10.0—NM Senador; 9.5—IM Garma, IM Gonzales; 9.0—NM Barbosa; 8.5—FM Donguines; 8.0—IM Roca; 6.5—IM Dableo; 6.0—IM Nadera; 5.5—FM Sales; 5.0—So, NM Carlos; 4.5—NM Diaz; 3.0—NM Maga; 2.0—Fazon, NM Perez.

Women (after 8 rounds): 7.0—WFM Lomibao; 5.5—Rivera; 5.0—WNM Salvador, WIM Mendoza; 4.5—WNM Castellano, WIM Mariano, Cutzon; 3.5—WNM Abanes, WNM Cruz; 2.5—Camacho; 1.5—Castro; 1.0—Alvarez.

TAGAYTAY CITY—The contenders kept their distance from the pretenders after the 14th round yesterday of the National Chess Championship at the Tagaytay International Convention Center here.

Darwin Laylo made short work of fellow National Master Mirabeau Maga to inch closer to the title and a slot in the Philippine team to the World Chess Olympiad slated Oct. 14-31 in Majorca, Spain.

Maga's blunder in the opening of their Irregular game cued Laylo's demolition job that lasted only 20 moves.

"*Binigyan n'ya ako ng pagkakataong umatake agad kaya sinamantala ko na* (He gave me a chance to attack early)," said Laylo, a former national juniors champ after pushing his total to 10.5 points.

The top three finishers in men's play and the top four among the women will join seeded players Grandmasters Eugene Torre, Joey Antonio and Mark Paragua in the RP team.

The rest of 14th round matches ended decisively.

NM Emmanuel Senador whipped International Master Barlo Nadera after 30 moves of an English Opening to remain in second place, half point off the pace.

Also churning out impressive performances were IMs Jayson Gonzales and Chito Garma, who are locked in a tight battle for the third spot.

Gonzales, who stopped the winning run of erstwhile second-running NM Oliver Barbosa in the 13th round, crushed IM Ronald Dableo after just 19 moves of an English Opening, while Garma downed NM Rodolfo Diaz Jr. after 28 moves of a Sicilian.

Gonzales and Garma tote 9.5 points each, making their 16th and penultimate round meeting perhaps the most crucial in the 12-day event.

Barbosa regained his winning touch against 10-year-old Wesley So in their Sicilian-Closed game to stay in contention with three rounds to go. Barbosa now has 9.0 points.

Other matches saw FIDE Master Fernie Donguines beat NM Leonardo Carlos in 34 moves of a Modern Defense, IM Petronio Roca defeat NM Roland Joseph Perez in 25 moves of a Gruenfeld, and FM Jesse Noel Sales win over IM Rolando Nolte after 31 moves of a Reti.

Meanwhile, WFM Sheerie Joy Lomibao fortified his hold of the top spot in women's play after downing WNM Carmelita Alvarez in 30 moves of a Sicilian-Closed.

The reigning National Open champion has 7.0 points after eight rounds to lead closest pursuer Daisy Rivera by 1.5 points.

Rivera scored a 34-move win over WNM Christine Castellano in their Center-Counter game. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Singh breaches Tiger's season money record

FARMINGTON, Pennsylvania—Vijay Singh broke the PGA Tour single-year money record Tiger Woods set while winning three majors in 2000, holding off Stewart Cink to win the 84 Lumber Classic by one shot Sunday for his third consecutive victory.

Singh's eighth championship this year pushed his money total to $9,455,566 in 26 events, surpassing Woods' $9,188,321 while he was winning nine times in 20 events in 2000. With Singh expecting to play four more times, he could become the first to win $10 million in one year.

"I'm going to try," Singh said.

Singh led from start to finish for his fifth victory in six tournaments, the best such streak since Woods won six in a row to end 1999 and start 2000. Singh has won seven times in his last 16 events.

In only three weeks, Singh has ended Woods' five years-plus run as the world's No. 1-ranked golfer and taken away one of Woods' lines in the PGA record book. Maybe that's why Woods pulled out of the 84 Lumber after unexpectedly committing last week—he didn't want to see Singh knock him out of yet another lead.

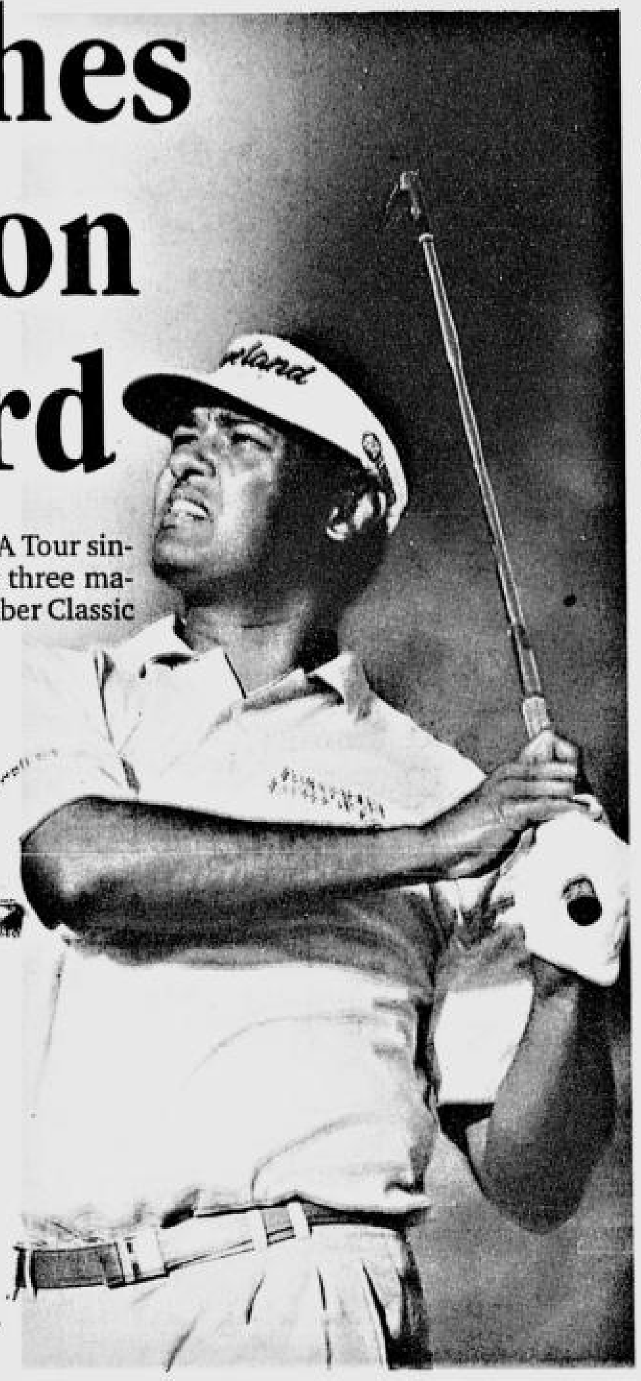
"It's ridiculous the way he's playing right now," said Chris DiMarco, who tied for third with Pat Perez and Zach Johnson after starting the round two back.

Singh had a three-under 69 Sunday, his third round in the 60s in four days, to finish at 15-under 273. Cink, five off the lead when the day started, had five straight birdies from No. 7 through No. 11 to make a move, but a bogey on the par-4 14th dropped him three back. Singh then held on despite a bogey on the par-4 18th.

"I want to win, I want to play well and it's a good habit (to get into)," Singh said.

Again, Singh's exceptional fairway play allowed him to excel on a long course. Of the eight longest courses on the PGA Tour this year, Singh won on four—including the PGA at Whistling Straits.

The mountaintop Mystic Rock course where the 84 Lumber is played was lengthened by about 400 yards to 7,471 yards after J.L. Lewis won last year at 22 under. *AP*


VIJAY Singh's career continues to skyrocket. AFP

Philsoc briefs GMA on SEAG tomorrow

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) will make a preliminary presentation tomorrow to President Macapagal-Arroyo regarding the country's preparation for the biennial event next year.

The presentation will be coursed through Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and will include the "overall picture" of what's going to transpire between Nov. 27 to Dec. 5, the actual schedule of the 2005 Sea Games.

Philsoc expects to give the government an idea of the total cost of hosting the SEAG whose budget is now pegged at P800 million.

The Department of Budget and Management has earlier announced that the government can only contribute P30 million for the biennial event, leaving the lion's share of the expenses to private sponsors.

Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain said the presentation will also include the training of more than 500 athletes and the extent of repairs on the government-owned facilities.

The Philippines will host the SEAG Federation meeting on Oct. 11-12 to finalize the lineup of sports disciplines to be staged in the Games as well as the number of golds each sport will offer.

So far, 34 sports have been approved with weightlifting and lawn tennis expected to make the roster. Philsoc intends to limit the total number of golds to less than 400.

The country is hosting the SEAG a third time since 1981 and 1991.

SPORTSWATCH

Southville beats DLS-Z booters

SOUTHVILLE International School and Colleges (SISC) won its opener in the Metro Manila Girls Football Association (MMGFA) tournament, 1-0, over La Salle Zobel 'B' last weekend at the Zobel pitch in Ayala Alabang. Speedy Southville striker Alex Godinez picked on a high ball and squeezed in between La Sallian defenders and goalie to hit the back of the net with two minutes left in the Under-17 match. Against the run of play, Jessica Ryon, Jessa Jastrzemski and Kayce Clareza of Southville combined to get the ball to Godinez inside the box. Southville keeper Karenne Dacanay then held fort and foiled the relentless attacks from La Sallian forwards.

Domingo rules criterium race

ENRIQUE Domingo captured yesterday's Wescor-Criterium race 1 hour plus 5 laps beating 70 other riders at the Quezon Memorial Circle. Domingo clocked 1 hour 11 minutes 33 seconds while second placer Nilo Estayo timed 1:11:36. Third placer Renato Sembrano checked in at 1:11:55. "We have to adopt the latest UCI rules accordingly in holding a criterium race, we have to set example on the correct way to do it," said chair of the National Track Cycling Commission Armando Bautista. The event was supported by Air21/FedEx, Speed Detergent Bar, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) and JJL Marketing. Wescor vice president Ricky Cruz said bigger prizes will be staked in the final race on Dec. 5.

Free boxing at Festival Mall

TOP-rated and up-and-coming boxers of the country will display their wares at 3 p.m. today at the 2nd floor Activity Center of Festival Mall in Alabang. The event is presented for free by businessman-sportsman Johnny Elorde in partnership with sports enthusiasts Dors Rivilla to drum up the launching of the new Elorde Boxing Gym within the Sphere fitness center of Rivilla at the 3rd level of the Festival Mall. The main event will feature No. 4 bantamweight contender Dante Contiga against No. 6 Sonny Gonzales in ten rounds.

Gandionco, Bordado world swim bound

VIETNAM Southeast Asian Games silver medallist Marichi Gandionco and Bonus Bordado were tapped to represent the country in the 7th Fina World Swimming Championship on Oct. 7-11 in Indianapolis, USA. According to Philippine Amateur Swimming Association secretary-general Chito Rivera, Fina has asked Pasa to send two of its best swimmers to attend the event. Fina will provide $1,000 for each swimmer.

Super 2-cock ulutan at PCC

NON-STOP fights start at 8 a.m. today as the "Super 2-Cock Ulutan Fastest Kill Challenge" unfolds at the air-conditioned Pasay City Cockpit, with Sagupaan B-50 Forten, Sagupaan Mite Free and Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsors. More than 100 fights are scheduled, said promoter Kags Paliza and Aba Badiola. For an entry fee of P2,200, the guaranteed prize is P300,000. Action resumes tomorrow with the regular 2-cock ulutan. Registration fee is P1,000. Meanwhile, the showdown of big-time cockers happens on Friday with Ferdi Lim's 5-stag derby. Submission of weights is on Thursday, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. For inquiries, call 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750.

GCAP holds 5-stag today

THE "GENTLEMEN Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 5-Stag Derby" will be held today at the air-conditioned Las Piñas Coliseum. The derby, starting at 7 p.m., is sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 and Pagcor-Casino Filipino. This will be the fourth of seven GCAP derbies scheduled at LPC to determine the first GCAP Stagfighter of the Year. The winner will receive P300,000 while his handler and gaffer will get P70,000 and P30,000, respectively. Sagupaan Complexor 3000 BPZ of Patrick Antonio and Labanan Sa Pasay Oct. 15 of Eric dela Rosa shared the championship in last week's derby. Meanwhile, Las Piñas Coliseum will present a 4-stag derby on Oct. 9 with Rey Oliveros as host. For details, contact 874-3910, 873-1040 and 0920-5609404.

Rolly Ligon's Stag Festival

WITH more than 200 gamefowl farms visited and about 4,000 stags banded, the stage is ready for Rolly Ligon's 2004 Stag Festival 5-Stag Derby at Roligon Mega Cockpit on Oct. 2, 4 & 6. Sponsored by Thunderbird Enertone, Thunderbird Multi-Grain Concentrate, and Lakpue Drug, Inc. a guaranteed cash prize of P1,000,000 is at stake for an entry fee of P6,600. A P50,000 day champion prize for each of the two separate 2-stag eliminations is at stake on Oct. 2 & 4. In the 3-stag championship on the 6th, the champion that will post the fastest win on its last fight gets a bonus of P50,000 and the 3rd P20,000. For those who want to catch up, screenings are held at Roligon everyday up to Oct. 1. Breeders may call Roligon at 833-2275 or 833-1638 for appointments.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1--1. Reigns Supreme/Hellfire 2. Hazmagic 3. Forever Joyce 4. Commodore Tiger
Race 2--1. Interceptor 2. Bulalakaw 3. Fabiola 4. Original 5. Just Joshua
Race 3--1. Best in Class 2. Lady Lawyer 3. Golden Snakehotdog 4. Deity
Race 4--1. Friendly Venture/Jajie 2. Wind Runner 3. Red Rose 4. Oliver Sun Joy 5. Tiger Song
Race 5--1. Perfect Time 2. Holy King 3. Impossible Dream 4. My Lucky One
Race 6--1. Silver Eagle 2. Gleaming Heart 3. Sir Lawrence 4. Rowena's Pride 5. Latin Music
Race 7--1. Parrot Moe 2. Taste of Magic 3. Seven Lakes 4. Precious Moment
Race 8--1. Pandora 2. Kumpirmado 3. Diabolo Don 4. Worth Ur While 5. Aya's Star 6. Blue Sheikh

29ers oust Cardinals from title race

LIPA CITY—Batangas finally beat Baguio, 99-96, Sunday, in the process ousting the Cardinals from the NBC (National Basketball Conference) North division title race at the Cultural and Convention Center here.

Razor-sharp from start to finish, Sonny Manucat orchestrated the 29ers' victory as he exploded for 34 point, two rebounds, two assists, two steals and one block.

With the win, the 29ers of Malvar Mayor Tita Reyes, Rep. Oscar Gozos and businessman Bernie Maranan earned a shot at Forward Taguig in the quarterfinals.

Pint-sized Dennis Rodriguez stood tall for Batangas, chipping in 14 points.

"*Gusto talaga naming manalo dahil dalawang beses kaming tinalo ng* Baguio," said 29es coach Yong Garcia.

Batangas led 79-60 going into the final period and padded this to 87-60 at the last 7:45 mark. But the Cardinals strung 11 points in the homestretch to threaten at 94-97.

Batangas and Taguig will clash on Oct. 8, following the NBC All-Star festivities in Baguio City on Oct. 1 and 2.

The scores:

BATANGAS 99—Manucat 34, Rodriguez 14, De Castro 9, Jun Cuevas 8, Saygo 7, Sta. Cruz 7, Gonzales 6, Mallari 4, Neo 4, Valena 3, Finuliar 3.

BAGUIO 96—Roque 17, Balares 13, Marzan 12, Ton 10, Mondina 9, Valdes 9, Fontanilla 7, Giron 7, Sagad 5, Collado 4, Tiongson 4, Navarro 3.

Quarters: 31-22, 54-43, 79-60, 99-96.

Time to retire

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

[Oops! Raul T. Gonzalez Jr. is not the Secretary of Justice but rather, the representative of the lone district of Iloilo City. It's his father who is the Secretary of Justice. Sorry, and thanks to our readers who pointed out the slip, among them panyeros Boni Sison and Doming Foronda, and Dante T. Fernandez of Roxas City.]

***

I NEVER thought Roy Jones Jr. would go down the way he did on Sunday. Yes, he was fresh from a knockout loss to Antonio Tarver in May before he faced Glen Johnson last weekend. But then, knowing Jones Jr., he could have easily stolen a win had he employed the correct strategy.

Like doing the thing he does best: Hit his foe with crisp combinations while on the move, decorating his assault with staccato punches a la Muhammad Ali.

Alas, the real Roy Jones Jr. wasn't present this time. He was in some place other than Memphis, Tennessee. He soon found himself in dreamland—a victim of a terrible knockout in the ninth round that might have finally put an end to an illustrious career spanning 16 years.

While Tarver unseated Jones Jr. in May with a crashing left to lift the WBC light heavyweight crown, Johnson used a vicious overhand right to the face to inflict the second KO loss in a row on Jones Jr., whose record went down to 49-3-0, with 38 knockouts. Johnson is now 41-9-2, with 28 KOs.

It was Jones Jr.'s fault. Or, has he become too old at 35 so that he didn't have the lilt and agility of a spring chicken anymore? But also at 35, isn't Johnson likewise a bit too old?

"Maybe, it was the battering Jones Jr. had absorbed fighting in the heavyweight division," came the expert analysis of Rudy Salud, a dear friend of Roy Jones Jr.

If you will remember, Rudy Salud had sent his ward then, Gerry Peñalosa, to Roy Jones Jr.'s training camp in America some years back. The relationship soon bloomed into a warm friendship. Rudy Salud would find himself sending Jones Jr. roosters of championship stock from his farm in San Pablo City.

"Also, the drastic change in weight must have finally taken its toll on Roy Jones Jr.," said Rudy Salud.

From the start, Jones Jr. fought a tentative fight.

He threw punches as seldom as when a hermit gets himself sunned up.

He still had the hand speed, as when he unleashed his patented quick combinations of uppercuts, straights and hooks in the third round.

But then it was the footwork that did him in: It wasn't there anymore.

From the first round up to the eighth, it was obvious Jones Jr. was merely trying to hang in there. I gave Johnson five rounds in that stretch.

Going to the ninth, I had a feeling it could suddenly end. True enough as, with 48 seconds gone in the round, Johnson caught Jones Jr. with that killer right to the jaw not far from the ear. It sent the three-time winner of world crowns in three weight divisions crashing to the canvas.

Jones Jr. was a pathetic sight as he lay almost motionless, his eyes closed for several seconds after his seconds struggled to remove his mouth guard. While down on the mat, doctors placed a towel stuffed with ice cubes under his head while they desperately tried to revive him. An ambulance would soon take him to the hospital.

"It was my strategy not to allow him to fight me from a distance," said Johnson, who literally crowded Jones Jr. every minute of the fight. "I had to jump in immediately to derail his style."

It was Johnson all the way, attacking with body shots and sneaky punches to the face. All Jones Jr. did was backpedal, if not lean on the ropes.

Before the fight, Jones Jr. said: "You can knock me down, but you'd better put me cold asleep because when I get up, I'm coming back."

Johnson did just that—put Jones Jr. cold asleep.

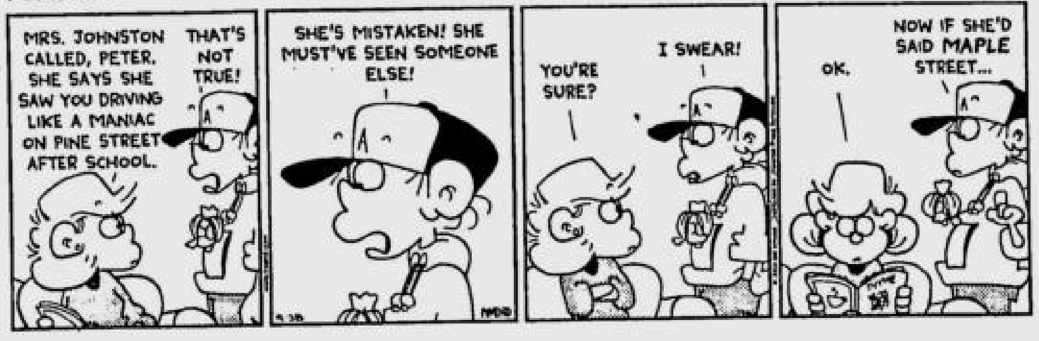
I doubt if Jones Jr., who became a WBA heavyweight champion in March 2003 before capturing the light heavyweight crown from Tarver in November in the first of their two fights, could come back at all.

The knockout he suffered on Sunday was simply too horrible to forget it might dog Jones Jr. for the rest of his life.

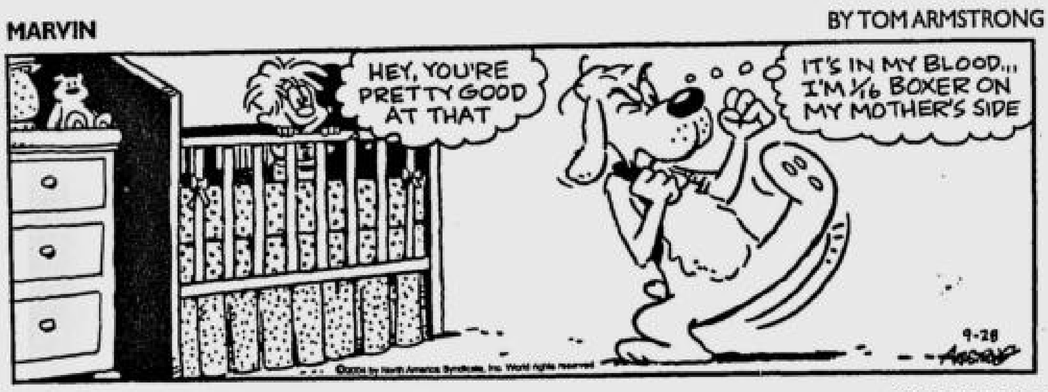
***

FASTBREAK. Mark Rosales, Asia's chairman of the World Sport Fishing Federation, will lead a 33-strong Philippine delegation to the Asian Sport Fishing Championship on Oct. 20-25 in Taiwan, with 78 countries seeing action. The Philippines narrowly missed the overall crown last year, finishing second behind Kazakhstan. "With some luck, we might bring home the gold trophy this time," said Rosales... Tonight, Richard Merk will present the farewell performance of the internationally acclaimed pop and jazz diva Angela Bofill at Merk's at Level 3, Greenbelt 3, Makati City. All the best, Richard.

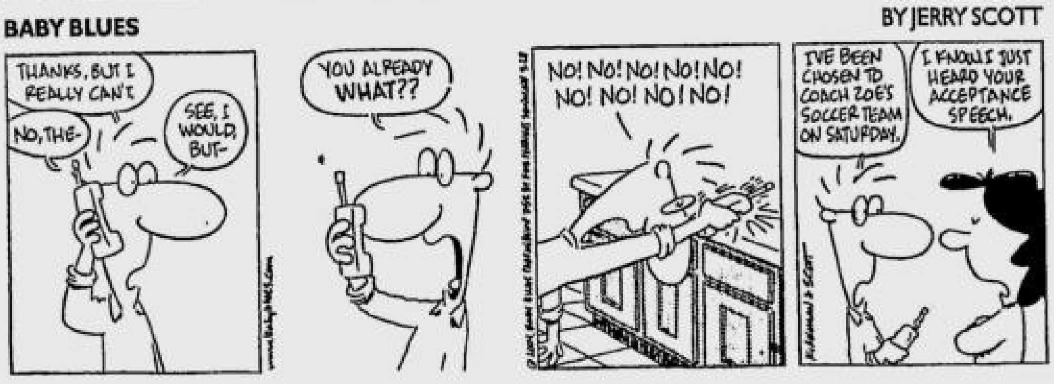
FOXTROT
BY BILL AMEND


MRS. JOHNSTON CALLED, PETER. SHE SAYS SHE SAW YOU DRIVING LIKE A MANIAC ON PINE STREET AFTER SCHOOL.
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
SHE'S MISTAKEN! SHE MUST'VE SEEN SOMEONE ELSE!
YOU'RE SURE?
I SWEAR!
OK.
NOW IF SHE'D SAID MAPLE STREET...
9-28

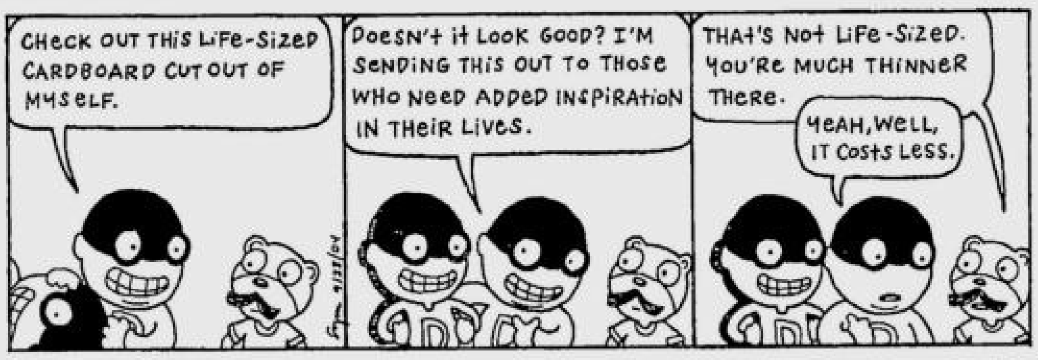
MARVIN
BY TOM ARMSTRONG


HEY, YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD AT THAT
IT'S IN MY BLOOD... I'M 1/16 BOXER ON MY MOTHER'S SIDE
9-28
©2004 by North America Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


THANKS, BUT I REALLY CAN'T
NO, THE-
SEE, I WOULD, BUT-
YOU ALREADY WHAT??
NO! NO! NO! NO! NO! NO! NO! NO! NO!
I'VE BEEN CHOSEN TO COACH ZOE'S SOCCER TEAM ON SATURDAY.
I KNOW. I JUST HEARD YOUR ACCEPTANCE SPEECH.

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


CHECK OUT THIS LIFE-SIZED CARDBOARD CUT OUT OF MYSELF.
DOESN'T IT LOOK GOOD? I'M SENDING THIS OUT TO THOSE WHO NEED ADDED INSPIRATION IN THEIR LIVES.
THAT'S NOT LIFE-SIZED. YOU'RE MUCH THINNER THERE.
YEAH, WELL, IT COSTS LESS.

HOROSCOPE
BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a natural magnetism. You seduce people. In part, it's because you're romantic, and you have taste. You easily win the affection of others. (Naturally, many of you have interesting diaries.) You're a dependable, loyal friend, with strong, political opinions. Increased solitude this year will give you an opportunity to learn something important.

Birthdate of: Mira Sorvino, actress; Brigitte Bardot, actress; Janeane Garofalo, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Today is strongly emotional because the Full Moon is in your sign. Don't get carried away with anything, especially conflict with others. Keep your cool!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Without question, you must be more patient with co-workers and customers. Today's Full Moon triggers challenging situations at work. Extra patience is needed.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): It's not worth being irritated with a friend today. Nobody has perfect friends; yet we all need friends. You have to learn to accept your friends for who they are.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Power struggles with authority figures, bosses and parents are likely today. Try to avoid falling into this trap. (It won't be pleasant.) If others power-trip you, run away!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Don't defend your religious or political beliefs today. Differences in beliefs easily clash now! Wait a few days to discuss anything important, because it will be much easier then.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Today's Full Moon does not hit your sign as hard as it does others'. Nevertheless, you feel that certain financial matters have come to a head. You have to act.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Today's Full Moon opposes your sign. That means it attracts opposition to you. Therefore, don't be pushy. Don't try to get your way. Don't bother trying to convince others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Do not arouse opposition at work by being too pushy about anything today. This is not the day to do it. Apply diplomacy and patience to your job today. (You'll need it!)

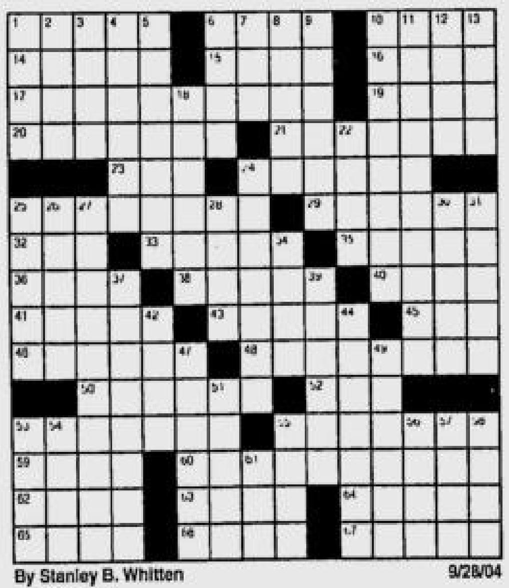
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Parents must be patient with children. Don't get caught up in power struggles. A friend might be looking for a fight. Don't give in to this one, either. Keep smiling!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Today's Full Moon demands all your patience and tolerance today, especially when dealing with family members, parents, bosses and even the police. Just remember: It takes two to make a fight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is a mildly accident-prone day. Be careful when driving, walking and cycling. The Full Moon makes people careless and impatient (including you).

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Avoid financial conflicts with others today. Likewise, don't argue about possessions. You can have your day in court—but not today. This is a very unwise day to argue about anything (Full Moon in Aries!).

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL
9/28/04

ACROSS
1 Taco dip
6 Irish Rose's lover
10 Aspersion
14 Clamorous
15 Bad luck charm?
16 Shoestring
17 Big zoo favorite
19 First name in mysteries
20 Adam of "The Wedding Singer"
21 Against the law
23 Scarlet or crimson
24 Grammatical case
25 City on Kyushu Island
29 Earthquakes
32 Make a blunder
33 Incline
35 Full-length
36 Bard
38 Clean power
40 Ticket sales
41 Indian nannies
43 "M*A*S*H" setting
45 Hoad of tennis
46 Moves from dusk to dark
48 Clique members
50 Covered with rich soil
52 Mine find
53 Debate again
55 Physical hypersensitivity
59 Actress Sommer
60 Big melodrama set to music
62 Appear to be
63 Raise
64 Yielder
65 Permission slip
66 Abominable snowman
67 Generally recognized

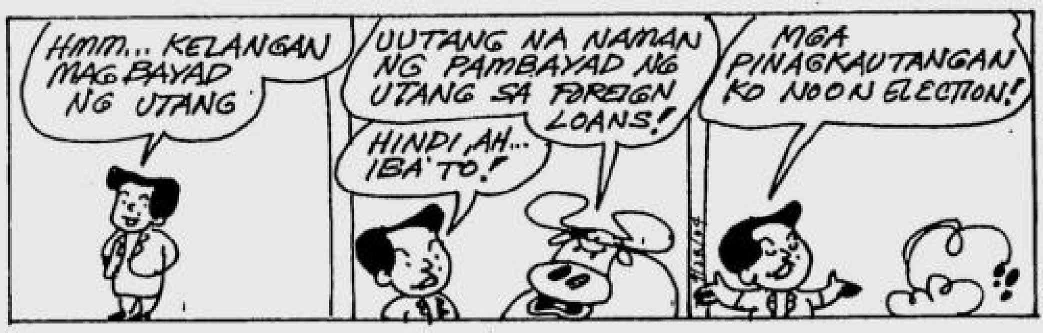
DOWN
1 Becomes slack
2 Song from an opera
3 Offer temporarily
4 Bullock or Bernhard
5 Lacking guile
6 Somewhat open
7 Open container
8 Kind of ink
9 Praises
10 Creating arm coverage
11 Big in scope
12 Bruins of football
13 Stagger
18 Bicycle pumpers
22 Stead
24 Twofold
25 Katmandu's country
26 Smell
27 Big HOMES
28 Weirdo
30 Sound dampener
31 Goulash and ragout
34 Obtain by effort
37 Math propositions
39 Put back on the market
42 Hitch
44 Spacecraft antechamber
47 Self-righteously
49 Intensify
51 Really weird
53 Breath: abbr.
54 Zeno of __
55 Against
56 Make over
57 Expanded
58 Tall tale
61 Toward the stern

Monday's Puzzle Solved

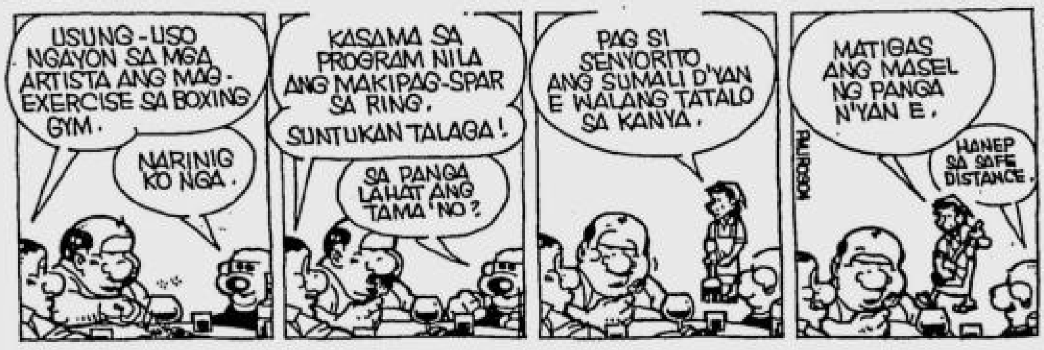
F	A	C	E	■	E	V	A	N	■	J	E	A	N	S
O	S	H	A	■	L	I	M	O	■	U	N	T	I	E
U	T	E	S	■	M	E	A	D	■	D	O	L	C	E
L	I	T	T	L	E	W	H	I	T	E	L	I	E	S
■	■	■	E	E	R	■	■	C	H	A	■	■	■	■
Z	E	B	R	A	■	U	S	E	R	■	S	C	O	W
O	L	E	■	D	E	R	N	■	O	B	T	U	S	E
W	E	E	W	I	L	L	I	E	W	I	N	K	I	E
I	N	T	E	N	D	■	P	E	N	S	■	O	E	D
E	A	S	T	■	E	L	S	E	■	T	A	R	R	Y
■	■	■	■	E	S	A	■	■	O	R	B	■	■	■
M	I	N	I	A	T	U	R	E	P	O	O	D	L	E
E	D	E	N	S	■	P	O	R	T	■	A	D	A	R
S	L	A	T	E	■	E	L	L	E	■	H	A	N	I
H	E	R	O	D	■	R	E	E	D	■	D	Y	A	N

(C)2004 Tribune Media Services, Inc
All rights reserved
9/28/04

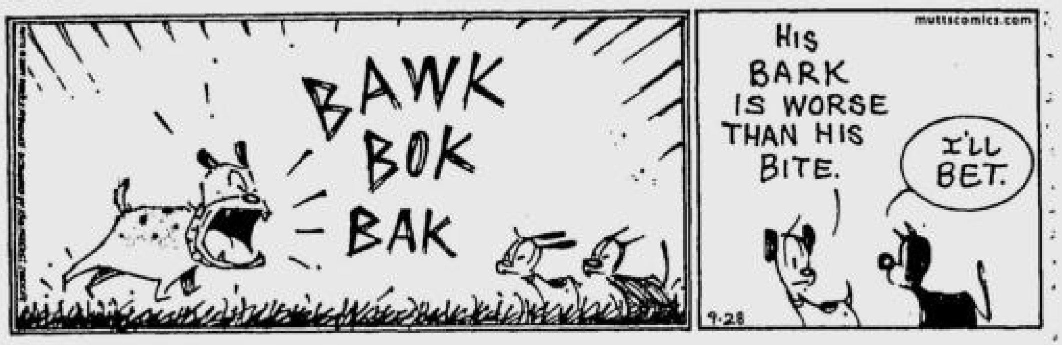
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


HMM... KELANGAN MAGBAYAD NG UTANG
UUTANG NA NAMAN NG PAMBAYAD NG UTANG SA FOREIGN LOANS!
HINDI, AH... IBA 'TO!
MGA PINAGKAUTANGAN KO NOON ELECTION!

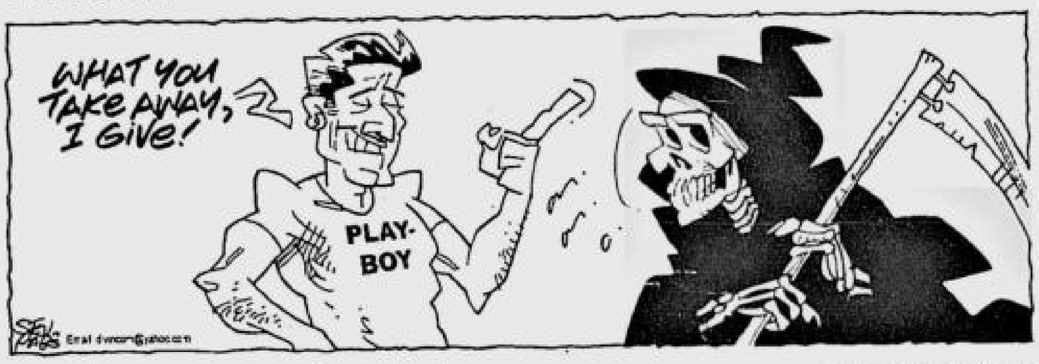
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


USUNG-USO NGAYON SA MGA ARTISTA ANG MAG-EXERCISE SA BOXING GYM.
NARINIG KO NGA.
KASAMA SA PROGRAM NILA ANG MAKIPAG-SPAR SA RING.
SUNTUKAN TALAGA!
SA PANGA LAHAT ANG TAMA 'NO?
PAG SI SENYORITO ANG SUMALI D'YAN E WALANG TATALO SA KANYA.
MATIGAS ANG MASEL NG PANGA N'YAN E.
HANEP SA SAFE DISTANCE.

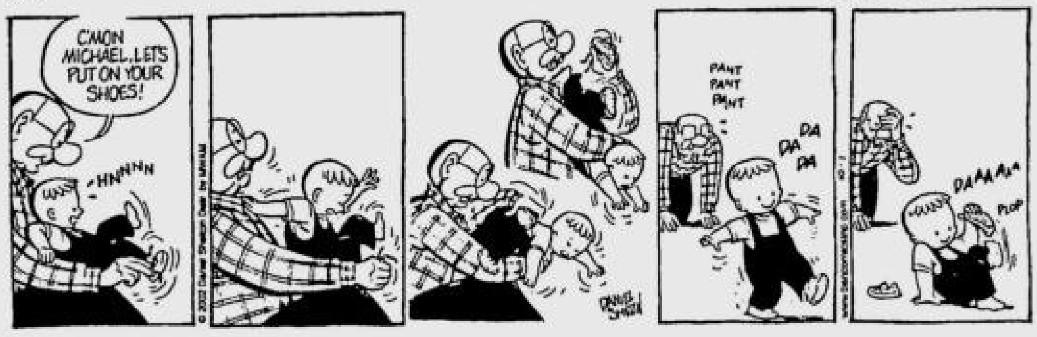
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


BAWK
BOK
BAK
muttscomics.com
HIS BARK IS WORSE THAN HIS BITE.
I'LL BET.
9-28

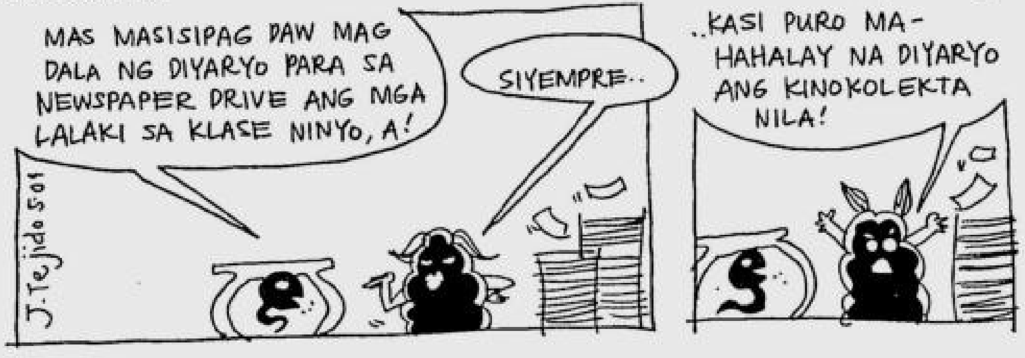
DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


WHAT YOU TAKE AWAY, I GIVE!
PLAY-BOY

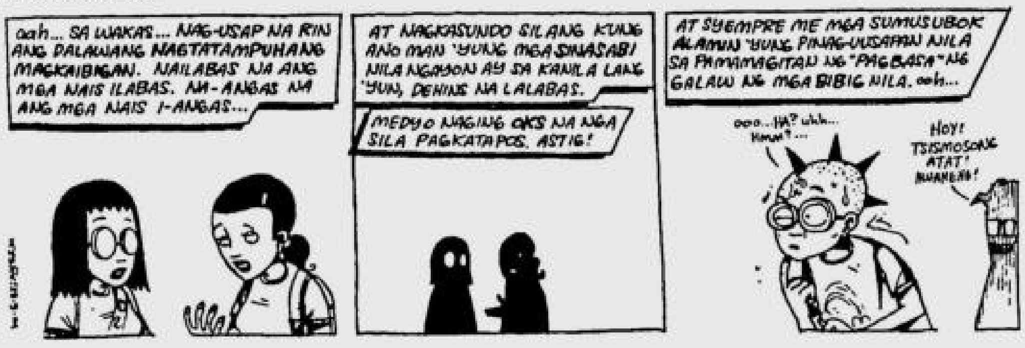
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


C'MON MICHAEL, LETS PUT ON YOUR SHOES!
HNNNN
PANT PANT PANT
DA DA DA
DAAAAA
PLOP

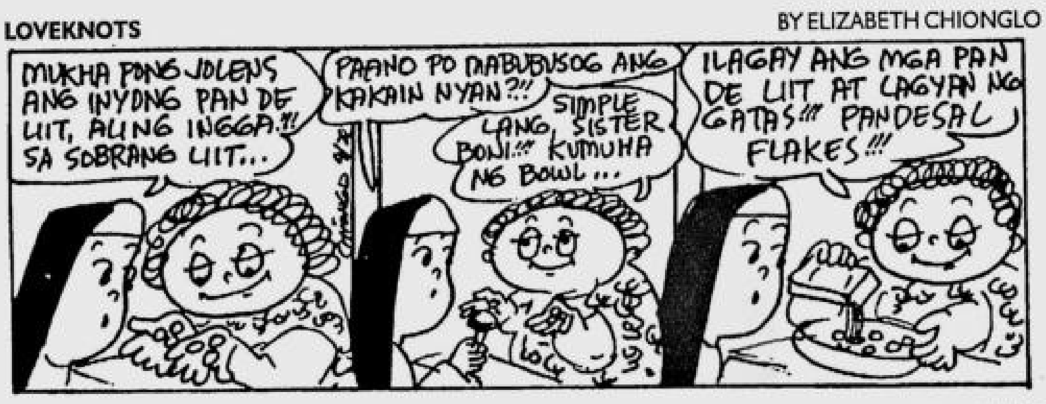
MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MAS MASISIPAG DAW MAG DALA NG DIYARYO PARA SA NEWSPAPER DRIVE ANG MGA LALAKI SA KLASE NINYO, A!
SIYEMPRE..
..KASI PURO MAHAHALAY NA DIYARYO ANG KINOKOLEKTA NILA!
J. Tejido 501

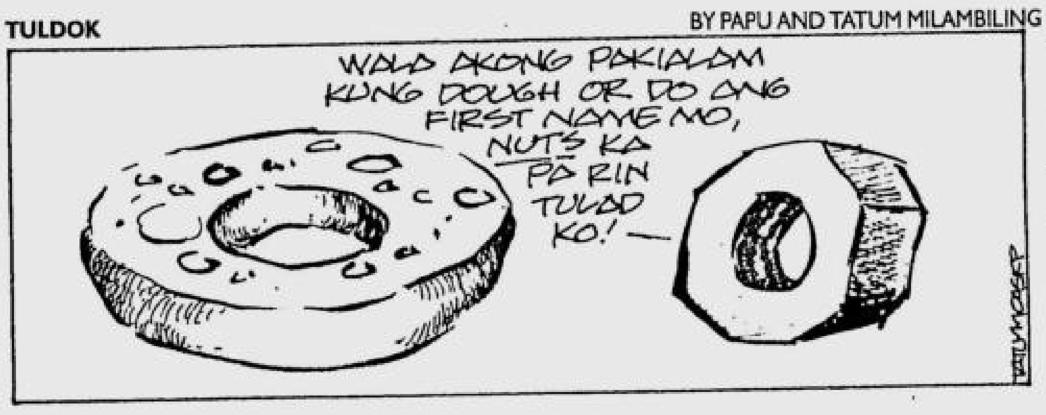
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA


aah... SA WAKAS... NAG-USAP NA RIN ANG DALAWANG NAGTATAMPUHANG MAGKAIBIGAN. NAILABAS NA ANG MGA NAIS ILABAS. NA-ANGAS NA ANG MGA NAIS I-ANGAS...
AT NAGKASUNDO SILANG KUNG ANO MAN 'YUNG MGA SINASABI NILA NGAYON AY SA KANILA LANG 'YUN, DEHINS NA LALABAS.
MEDYO NAGING OKS NA NGA SILA PAGKATAPOS. ASTIG!
AT SYEMPRE ME MGA SUMUSUBOK ALAMIN 'YUNG PINAG-USAPAN NILA SA PAMAMAGITAN NG "PAGBASA" NG GALAW NG MGA BIBIG NILA. aah...
ooo... HA? uhh... hmm?...
HOY! TSISMOSONG ATAT! MWAHEHE!

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MUKHA PONG JOLENS ANG INYONG PAN DE UIT, ALING INGGA?!! SA SOBRANG LIIT...
PAANO PO MABUBUSOG ANG KAKAIN NYAN?!!
SIMPLE LANG, SISTER BONI!!! KUMUHA NG BOWL...
ILAGAY ANG MGA PAN DE LIIT AT LAGYAN NG GATAS!!! PANDESAL FLAKES!!!

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


WALA AKONG PAKIALAM KUNG DOUGH OR DO ANG FIRST NAME MO, NUTS KA PA RIN TULAD KO!

'Let's Just Play,' says Nick

NICKELODEON celebrates the joy of being a kid with "Let's Just Play," which promotes physical activity, team spirit and fitness.

Nickelodeon will convert the Adidas Sports Kamp at the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig into a dream playground for kids on Oct. 2, 2 p.m.-8 p.m.

Nick fans in the Philippines will be joined by their counterparts in Singapore, Malaysia, India, Australia and the United States in celebrating the Worldwide Day of Play.

Nickelodeon will go "dark" for the first time in its history in selected markets, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Oct. 2, pre-empting the channel's regular programming to air play messages. This aims to encourage kids to switch off their TV sets, get out of the house and play.

At the playground, simultaneous activities will be happening to entertain kids of all ages. There will be giant slime-filled inflatables, a giant velcro wall, trampoline bungee, slime dunking pool, obstacle course, rock climbing, BMX biking and skateboarding.

Parents and kids can test their baseball skills on three different levels at the Batter Up batting cage.

Toddlers will be entertained with puppetry, magic and story telling at the Tricks for Nicks. Buckets of pavement chalk will be available so young artists can draw their ideas of "Get Up! Get Out and Play!" at the Chalkaholics section.

In The Great Hose Down, kids can wash up before hitting The Grub Hub to grab fresh and healthy food. Experts from the National Nutrition Council and the Sports Rehab Kamp will answer questions about food and health in Fitness for Misfits.

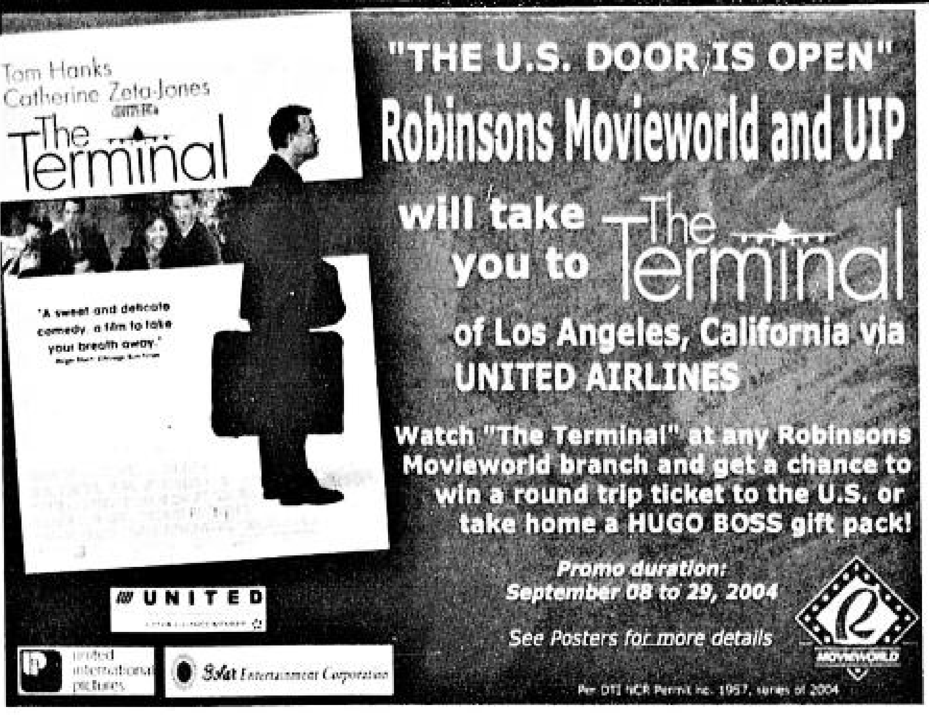
Kids then can jam with Angelica and Chuckie of the Rugrats, joined by the hottest stars, in a special pocket concert till 8 p.m.

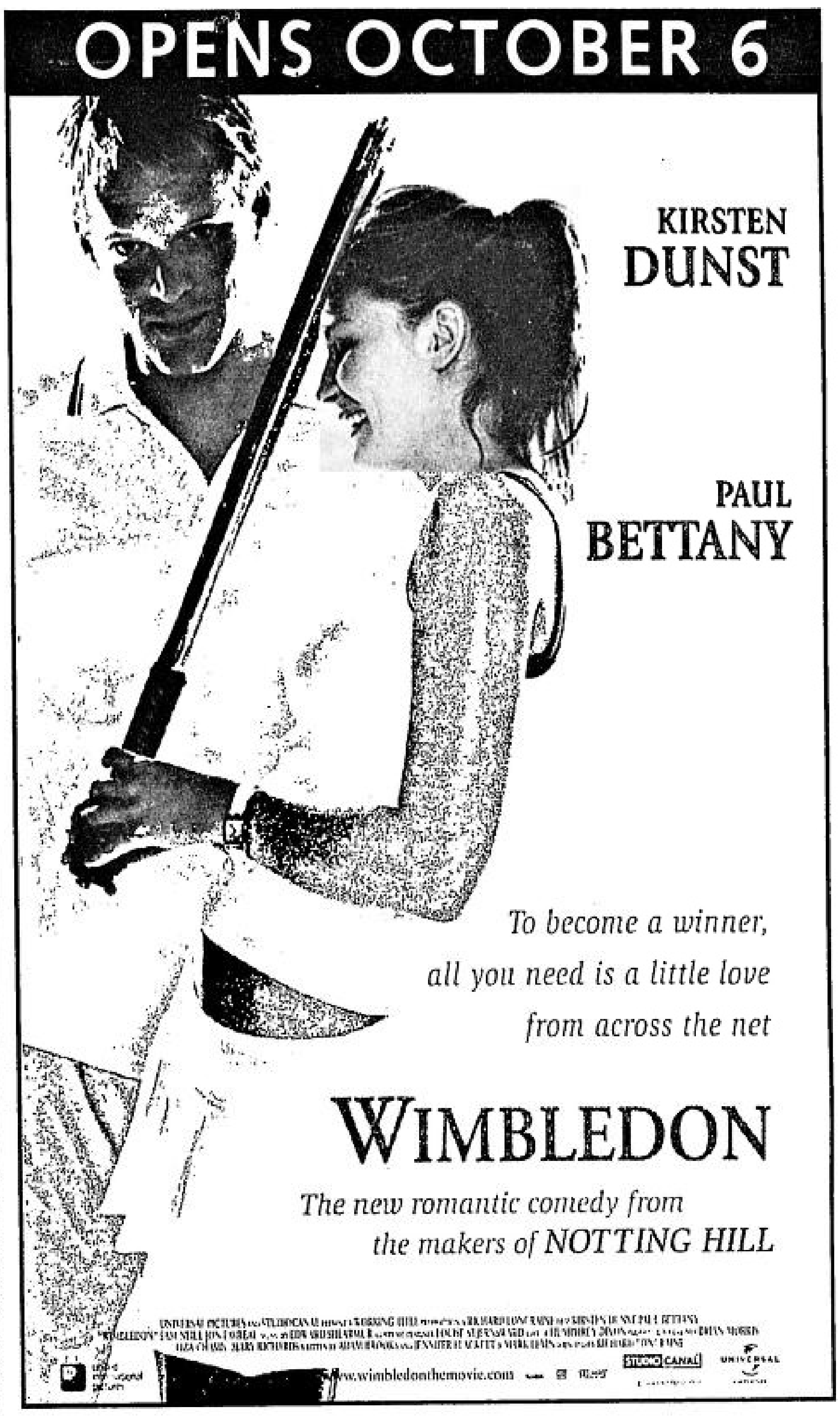
Online, a Let's Play micro site, www.nick-splat.com/letsplay, features health and nutrition information, games, tips on sports, downloadables, message boards, information on events and more.

"Let's Just Play" in the Philippines is presented by Milo and Hasbro, and co-sponsored by Smart Kid and Chips Ahoy. The free event will be hosted by Nick's Noel de la Rosa with co-host Issa Litton.

It is supported by the National Nutrition Council together with the Sports Rehab Kamp and media partner Yehey! Philippines.

OPENS TOMORROW!
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13
STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
#1 MOVIE IN AMERICA
MILLA JOVOVICH
The beginning of the end.
RESIDENT EVIL: Apocalypse
COMING SOON
RE2.com


Tom Hanks
Catherine Zeta-Jones
The Terminal
"A sweet and delicate comedy, a film to take your breath away."
"THE U.S. DOOR IS OPEN"
Robinsons Movieworld and UIP
will take you to The Terminal
of Los Angeles, California via UNITED AIRLINES
Watch "The Terminal" at any Robinsons Movieworld branch and get a chance to win a round trip ticket to the U.S. or take home a HUGO BOSS gift pack!
Promo duration: September 08 to 29, 2004
See Posters for more details
UNITED
united international pictures
Solar Entertainment Corporation
MOVIEWORLD
Per DTI NCR Permit no. 1957, series of 2004


OPENS OCTOBER 6
KIRSTEN DUNST
PAUL BETTANY
To become a winner, all you need is a little love from across the net
WIMBLEDON
The new romantic comedy from the makers of NOTTING HILL
www.wimbledonthemovie.com
STUDIO CANAL
UNIVERSAL

OPENS TOMORROW!
MTRCB RATING ▶ G GENERAL PATRONAGE
ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'RUNAWAY BRIDE' & 'PRETTY WOMAN'
KATE HUDSON
JOHN CORBETT
RAISING HELEN
raising-helen.com
Touchstone Pictures
SOUNDTRACK INCLUDES THE HIT SINGLE "EXTRAORDINARY" FROM LIZ PHAIR
PLUS NEW SONGS FROM MARIA MCGRATH, FIVE FOR FIGHTING, JOSH KELLY, FEFE DOBSON AND MANY MORE
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS FOR ALL BRANCHES 635-5555
Visit us: www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

TOP MOVIE THEATER

22nd Annual National Consumer's Quality Award 2004
Family Consumers Choice Award 2003

NOW SHOWING

GALLERIA 632-9115 to 16

CINEMA 1 THX
THE BOURNE SUPREMACY 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30
2 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
3 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00
4 13 GOING ON 30 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
5 FENG SHUI 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
6 HEAVEN'S POND 10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
7 SAVED 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
8 THE NOTEBOOK 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
9 THE TERMINAL 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
10 SECRETARY 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P80 for one level cinemas
Regular Price: P150 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY 10:35; 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
2 SECRETARY 11:10, 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:20
3 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
4 HEAVEN'S POND 10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:00
5 13 GOING ON 30 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
6 FENG SHUI 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
7 SAVED 10:20, 12:15, 2:10, 4:05, 6:00, 7:55, 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193/99 / 682-8280

1 HEAVEN'S POND 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
2 SAVED 10:05, 12:15, 2:25, 4:35, 6:45, 9:00
3 13 GOING ON 30 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
4 THE TERMINAL 10:10, 1:05, 4:00, 6:55, 9:10
5 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:35, 10:30
6 TAKAW TINGIN 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
7 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY 10:35, 1:00, 3:25, 5:50, 8:15, 10:30
8 FENG SHUI 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 10:30

NOVALICHES 935-3229 / 31
1 EXORCIST:THE BEGINNING
2 SAVED
3 FENG SHUI
4 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
5 THE TERMINAL
6 13 GOING ON 30
7 MINDHUNTERS
8 ANACONDAS

Citisquare MALABON 288-0985/2575
1 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
2 FENG SHUI
3 TAKAW TINGIN
4 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING

CAINTA 240-4661
1 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
2 FENG SHUI
3 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
4 TAKAW TINGIN

LIPA 757-3664 / 312-5870
1 THE TERMINAL
2 13 GOING ON 30
3 TAG-INIT
4 FENG SHUI
5 ANACONDAS

STA. ROSA (049)837-0907
1 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
2 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
3 THUNDERBIRDS
4 LAWS OF ATTRACTIONS
5 FENG SHUI

DASMARIÑAS 852-2185 / 416-4332
1 13 GOING ON 30
2 TWISTED
3 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
4 MINDHUNTERS
5 FENG SHUI

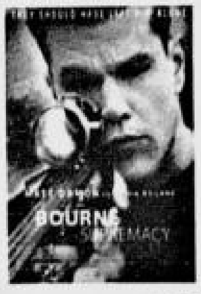
ANGELES
1 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
2 FENG SHUI
3 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
4 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY

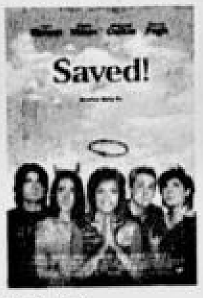
STARMILLS San Fernando Pampanga 875-1927 / 961-5270
1 THE TOOL BOX MURDERS
2 TAG-INIT
3 FENG SHUI
4 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
5 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
6 MINDHUNTERS

IMUS 471-8188 / 875-5858
1 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
2 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
3 JANDARA
4 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
5 FENG SHUI
6 MINDHUNTERS

BACOLOD 441-0458/59
1 THE TERMINAL
2 FENG SHUI
3 DODGEBALL
4 THE ALAMO
5 ANACONDAS
6 HAMOG

ILOILO 336-8070/78
1 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
2 THE NOTEBOOK
3 FENG SHUI
4 THE TERMINAL
5 DODGEBALL
6 ANACONDAS





at ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

"THE U.S. DOOR IS OPEN" Robinsons Movieworld and UIP

Watch "The Terminal" at any Robinsons Movieworld branch and get a chance to win a round trip ticket to the U.S. Or take home a HUGO BOSS gift pack!

Promo duration: September 8 to 29, 2004

The Terminal of Los Angeles, California via UNITED AIRLINES

MOVIES SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

See'eMall!

AYALA CINEMAS THX

Movies/schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729-7777

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4		GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
1 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY	1 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY	1 FENG SHUI	5 THE NOTEBOOK	GUARANTEED SEATS 1 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY	1 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
2 THE TERMINAL	2 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING	2 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING	6 13 GOING ON 30	GUARANTEED SEATS 2 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY 1 50, 4 00, 6 10, 8 20, 10 30	2 THE NOTEBOOK
3 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING	3 HEAVEN'S POND	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 THE BOURNE... 1 30 3 45, 6 00, 8 15, 10 30	7 THE TERMINAL	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING 2 15, 4 40, 7 05, 9 30	3 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
4 SAVED	4 FENG SHUI	4 SAVED		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 FENG SHUI 2 00, 4 20, 6 40, 9 00, 11 20	4 FENG SHUI
5 FENG SHUI		GB1 GREENBELT 1		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 THE TERMINAL 2 00, 4 30, 7 00, 9 30	5 THE TERMINAL
		1 FENG SHUI 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40			
		2 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY 12 50, 3 00, 5 10, 7 20, 9 30			

At the Activity Center

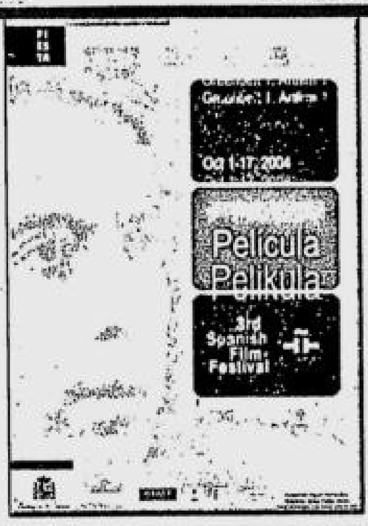
GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
MANUFACTURER'S & EXPORTERS BAZAAR Sept 27 and 28 RX 93.1 DANCE COMPETITION Sept 29	PHILIPPINE ROBOTICS FINALS October 1 DISNEY'S ART ATTACK October 2	PHIL. NURSES ASSOCIATION 68TH FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY HEALTH FAIR (Sept 27) JOB FAIR (Sept 29)

ENTERTAINMENT LIVE!

GREENBELT 2	GREENBELT 3
GREENBELT 2: MUSIC STYLES from Thursday to Saturday (7-10pm) feat The Real Groove (Thu) Acoustic Anthology (Fri) Acoustic Jive w/ May Bayot	NEO CORPO ART EXHIBIT Sept. 16-30 (Greenbelt 3 Lobby)

Onstage
REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents PINOCCHIO
at REP's GLOBE THEATER - August 7 to December 12. 2004

EXPO
TRADE HALL FOR EXHIBITS, EVENTS AND MORE!
For inquiries and bookings, please call 750-4982 to 84



ArtFilm

Ayala Cinemas
proudly hosts

Pelicula Pelikula 2004
The 3rd Spanish Film Festival

1-17 October
Greenbelt 1 Artfilm

Instituto Cervantes

For inquiries, please call 526 1448

Subscribe to
AYALA CINEMAS' WEEKLY
MOVIEM@IL

The revolutionary way to keep you posted on what's happening with your favorite Ayala Cinemas. And it's all for FREE!

Simply e-mail the word "SUBSCRIBE" to ayalacinemas@ayalaland.com.ph and you'll receive an e-mail from us with the latest updates each week.

AYALA CINEMAS
AYALA MALLS LoveMall!

For movie screening schedules, call the Ayala Cinema Links:

AYALA CINEMAS
AYALA MALLS LoveMall!

Experience the all-out action & horror of one of the most anticipated films of the year in

RESIDENT EVIL: Apocalypse
PHOTO EXHIBIT

Now open to the public at the Glorietta 4 cinema lobby

Movie opens September 29 in Ayala Cinemas

PIONEER FILMS
AYALA CINEMAS
AYALA MALLS LoveMall!

MILLA JOVOVICH
RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE

CUSTOMER SERVICE TEXT HOTLINE: 0917-6095900 • CUSTOMER SERVICE HOTLINE: Glorietta - 752-7272; from 10am to 8pm • Greenbelt - 757-4853; from 11am to 12mn • Alabang Town Center - 842-2782; from 10am to 8pm Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231-5342 loc 324 • AYALA CINEMA LINKS: For screening times call 729-7777. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart). Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

AYALA CENTER
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
AYALA CENTER CEBU
LoveMall!

United also stars in 'Terminal'

UNITED Airlines employees who feel as if they spend their whole lives at the airport can relate to Steven Spielberg's new film, "The Terminal." DreamWorks Pictures, with United International Pictures through Solar Entertainment Corp., released the movie earlier this month.

Catherine Zeta-Jones plays a United flight attendant while Tom Hanks portrays a passenger whose adventure begins when he arrives at an airport in New York.

The producers approached United last year for assistance, which the airline provided in the form of props, costumes, announcements, uniforms and perspectives on the industry. In return, United gets plenty of air time in the movie. It is the most prominent airline in the film.

About 40 United employees from Los Angeles served as extras, some dressing in their actual United uniforms.

United worked with the producers and production team to craft the look and logistics of the mock airport. The airline advised the producers on passenger flow, the look of the check-in area, the information screens and layouts at the gates, and signs around the concourse.

United shipped and installed Easy-Check-in units and gate readers for use on the set and arranged for the producers to visit United's LA flight kitchens.

United Airlines in Manila sponsored an advanced screening of "The Terminal" last Sept. 2 at Robinsons Movieworld Galleria.

Check with your favorite theaters in Metro Manila to learn how to enter a contest and win tickets to LA on United Airlines.

My birthday thank-you list

From page A27

ready $1-million smile for me.

To all my other friends who were not able to make it to my "debut" but who have always been there for me even at the 11th hour, especially **Vicki Belo, Ces Drilon, Aiko Melendez, Pops Fernandez, Liezl** and **Albert Martinez, Princess Punzalan, Eidleen Banzon** of Holistic Circle Megamall, **Millet** of Estilo Greenhills, **Terrie** of Terries Greenhills, **Vivian Sarabia, Bebot Santos,** Mayor **Dan Lim** of Bohol. Thanks for exceeding the minimum daily requirement for kindness.

For feedback, e-mail friends_elpueblo@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com

My birthday thank-you . . .

From page A28

world of show biz.

Direk **Maryo J. de los Reyes.** *Domo arigato,* my Tokyo Love, for a *muy magnifico* friendship.

Butch Francisco. Thanks more than words can say for loving my mom like your own and treating me like family.

China Cojuangco. *Grazie,* sweetie, for sharing girly woes and joys unabashedly.

Wowie de Guzman. Thanks for being a part of my kids' birthday memories when you were still with UMD. I'm glad our friendship has remained intact.

Sen. Pia Cayetano. You miss your dad as much as I miss my ma but we have found solace in our friendship as we remember them fondly and try to carry on what they started. My sincerest thanks for being in my corner.

Andrew Real and **Peter** of Fab Bar Malate. *Salamat, mga kapatid,* for letting my *babaeng bakla* side show.

Camille of Intense band. Thanks, girl, for being my soul sister.

Sheree. Thanks for the instant bonding, Ms Ganda.

Yul Servo. Thank you for always having a

MY BIRTHDAY/ A26

Araneta Center ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

3	Dolby FENG SHUI	11:35 am 1:55 pm 4:15 pm 6:35 pm 8:55 pm
4	SDDS BOURNE SUPREMACY	12:10 pm 2:25 pm 4:40 pm 6:55 pm 9:10 pm
5	dts EXORCIST	12:50 pm 3:30 pm 6:10 pm 8:50 pm
6	Dolby HEAVEN'S POND	12:00 nn 2:15 pm 4:30 pm 6:45 pm 9:00 pm
7	Dolby MINDHUNTERS	12:20 pm 2:30 pm 4:40 pm 6:50 pm 9:00 pm

ARANETA COLISEUM

Sep 30	LA SALLE vs F E U (if necessary)
Oct 2	UAAP vs NCAA ALL STAR GAME
Oct 3	PBA ALL FILIPINO OPENING GAMES
Oct 6	PBA ALL FILIPINO GAMES
Oct 8	BASIL VALDEZ & RICO PUNO CONCERT
Oct 9	ALICIA KEYS 2004 WORLD TOUR
Dec 11	JULIO IGLESIAS CONCERT
Dec 25	DISNEY ON ICE : Princess Classics

For tickets, call TicketNet at 911-5555

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	TAKAW TINGIN
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	TAKAW TINGIN
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1, 2, 3 & 4	THE NOTEBOOK/THE TERMINAL/PRINCESS DIARIES 2/DODGEBALL
PREMIERE THEATRE	ANACONDAS

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MINDHUNTERS
CINEMA-2	TAKAW TINGIN
CINEMA-3	13 GOING ON 30
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BETTER THAN SEX (RE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-6	THE TERMINAL
CINEMA-7	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL (RE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-8	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BOURNE SUPREMACY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SAVED
CINEMA-12	HEAVEN'S POND
CINEMA-14	BOURNE SUPREMACY
CINEMA-15	FENG SHUI

LORES

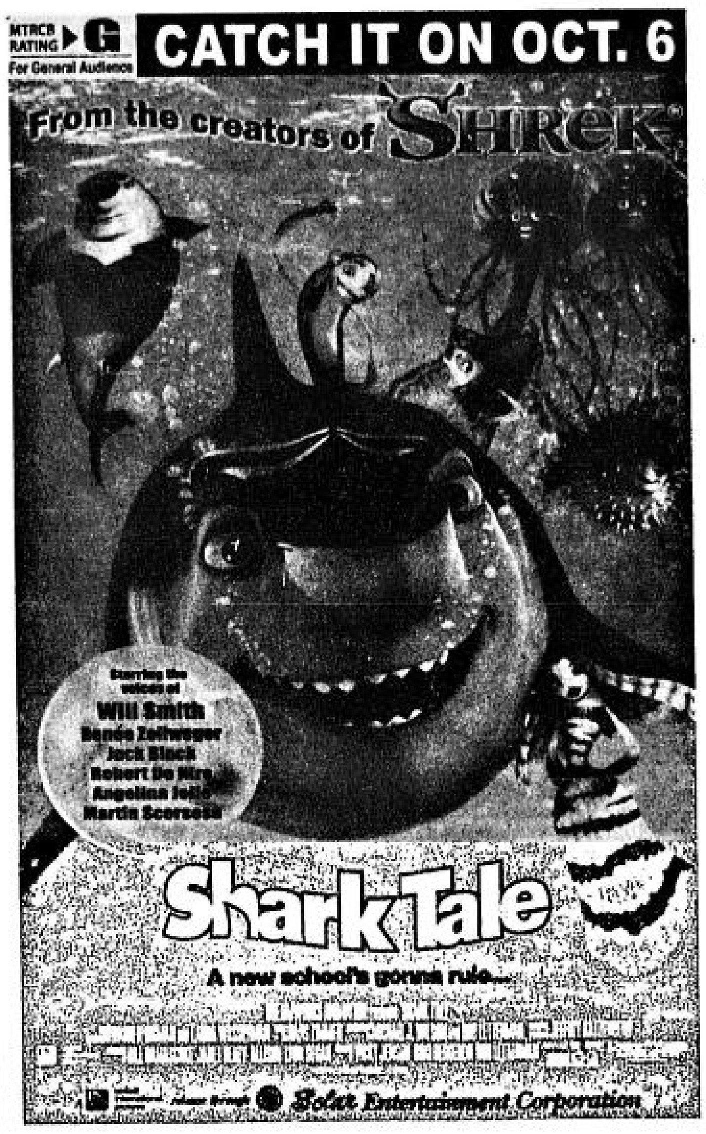
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

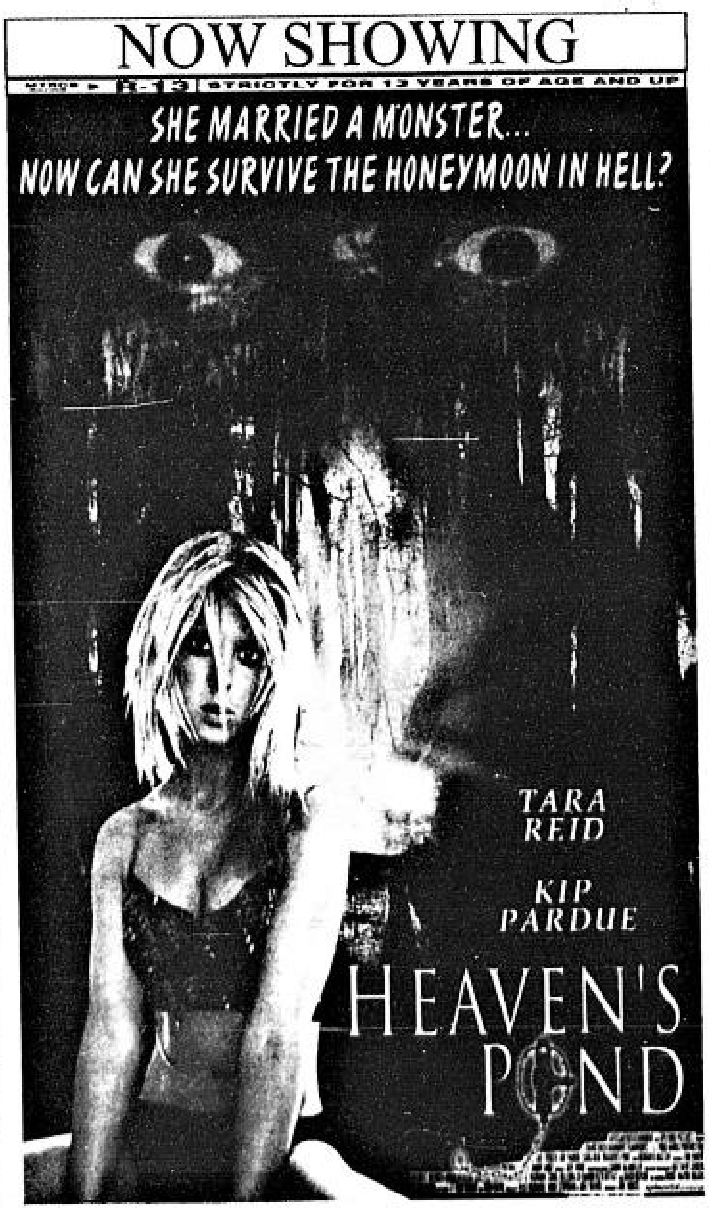
(LAS PINAS)	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-1	FENG SHUI
CINEMA-2	DODGEBALL
CINEMA-4	TERMINAL

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA


MTRCB RATING ▶ G For General Audience
CATCH IT ON OCT. 6
From the creators of SHREK
Starring the voices of Will Smith, Renée Zellweger, Jack Black, Robert De Niro, Angelina Jolie, Martin Scorsese
Shark Tale
A new school's gonna rule...
A united international pictures release through Solar Entertainment Corporation

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
"MORE WIT AND DARING THAN 'MEAN GIRLS'"
KENT TURNER FILM-FORWARD.COM
Mandy Moore
Jena Malone Macaulay Culkin Patrick Fugit
Saved!
MEET THE STUDENTS OF A.E.C. HIGH. HEAVEN HELP US.

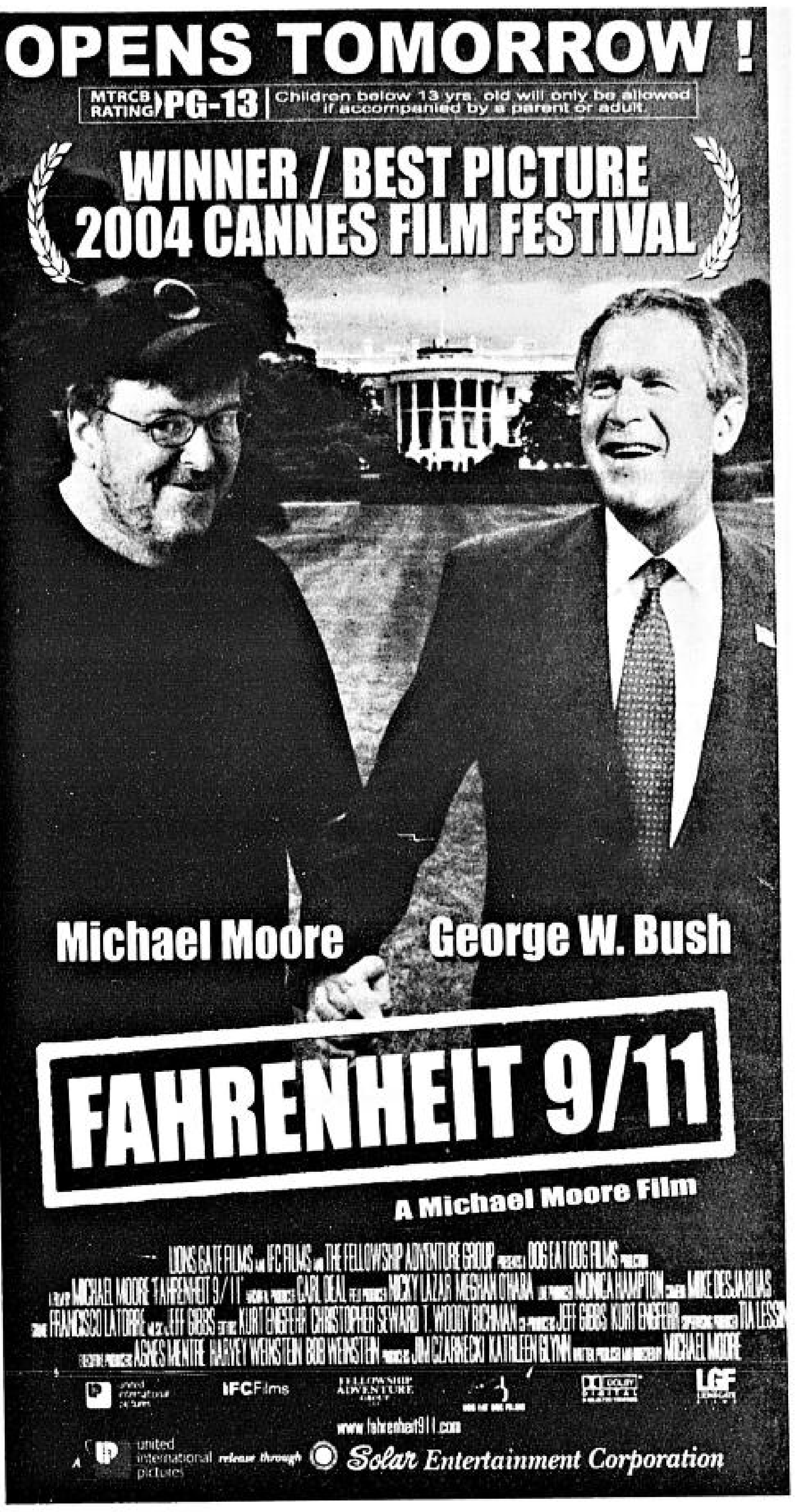

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
SHE MARRIED A MONSTER... NOW CAN SHE SURVIVE THE HONEYMOON IN HELL?
TARA REID
KIP PARDUE
HEAVEN'S POND

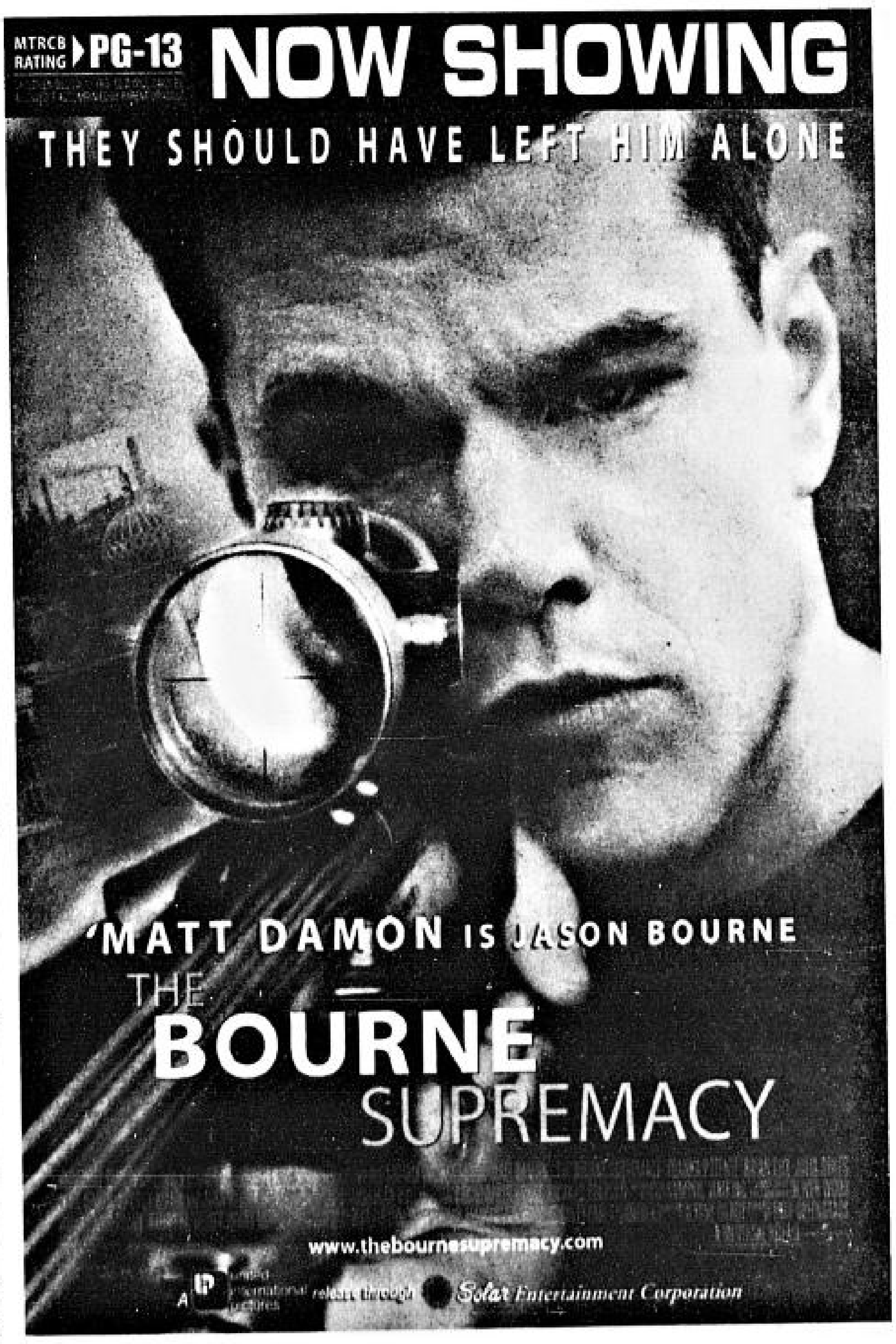
Where you find the best.

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

THE TERMINAL GP 12:00,2:30,5:00,7:30,10:00	THE BOURNE SUPREMACY PG13 12:00,2:15,4:30,6:45,9:00	THE BOURNE SUPREMACY PG13 1:30,3:45,6:00,8:15,10:30
FENG SHUI PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10	SAVED PG13 1:20,3:25,5:30,7:35,9:40	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING R13 12:40,3:05

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.


OPENS TOMORROW !
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
WINNER / BEST PICTURE 2004 CANNES FILM FESTIVAL
Michael Moore George W. Bush
FAHRENHEIT 9/11
A Michael Moore Film
www.fahrenheit911.com
A united international pictures release through Solar Entertainment Corporation


MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 NOW SHOWING
THEY SHOULD HAVE LEFT HIM ALONE
MATT DAMON IS JASON BOURNE
THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
www.thebournesupremacy.com
A united international pictures release through Solar Entertainment Corporation

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

OMB not anti-Muslim, says Edu

'We also go after Christians, Indians, Chinese'

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE OPTICAL Media Board goes after disc pirates no matter what their ethnic background is, and does not discriminate against Muslim vendors of pirated merchandise, according to the OMB chair, actor and host Edu Manzano.

"We've been telling people again and again that not only Filipino Muslim vendors of pirated materials are apprehended," Chair Edu told INQUIRER Entertainment last Friday.

"We also go after Christians, as well as those of Indian and Chinese descent.

"But I guess some people are simply not provided with sufficient information about what the OMB does and who it is after," added the actor who called his OMB duties "a thankless job."

"That is why we continue to conduct talks with our Muslim brothers," he said. "During a recent dialogue, we suggested that they form a group and make it legal. Then we might be able to make special concessions for them, like setting them up with dealers of original video discs."

Edu was reacting to the reported comment of a congressman who said last week that the OMB was biased because it only went after Muslim vendors of pirated discs instead of pursuing the big fish in piracy.

Edu admitted that the OMB is also blamed for the loss of the jobs of many VCD and DVD vendors, especially those who belong to the Muslim community.

He reported that last Thursday, OMB special agents intercepted a plane from Indonesia carrying pirated video discs and labels worth P25,000 at the Davao International Airport in the South.

"We are hitting pirates where it counts," he said. "We can't afford to just wait for these materials to get to the hands of the retailers. We are stopping them by guarding all the points of entry."

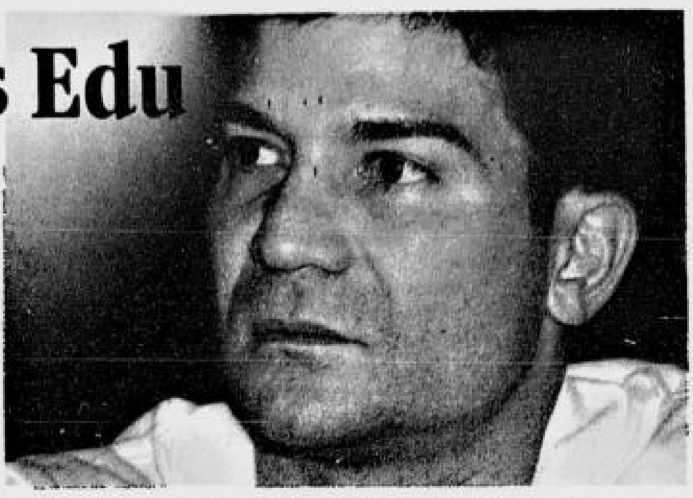
He said 85 percent of pirated video compact discs (VCDs) and digital video discs (DVDs) in the Philippines come from other Asian countries like Malaysia, Thailand, India and Indonesia.

"The only way to solve piracy in the country is by stopping it at its source," he stressed.

Last Aug. 11, OMB agents raided the Great Ocean factory in Portrero, Malabon, and seized P100 million worth of pirated materials.

Despite the criticisms against the OMB, Edu said he believes the OMB is "doing an excellent job."

"Because of our raids, the price of pirated DVDs has gone up from P40-P50 to P90-P100 each because they've become scarce," said the appointee of President Macapagal-Arroyo.



JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

'THANKLESS JOB.' Edu suggested that Muslim vendors form a group and make it legal and "we might be able to make special concessions for them."

'Fear Factor' family edition

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LAST week, we caught a special "family" edition of "Fear Factor." The show began well enough, with teams of parents and children competing enthusiastically together.

However, trouble began to rear its pointy head when a little girl was made to balance herself on a high ledge for many minutes on end. She had to cope with strong gusts of wind as she tried to grab some tiny flags, even as she tried to keep from falling into the abyss.

Viewers pitied the girl for having to deal with such a difficult challenge, which was much too daunting for her tender years.

The next cautionary challenge came when the child competitors had to sit in a small enclosure, while hundreds of cockroaches and other nasty-looking insects were poured into the confining space.

The kids were brave about it all, but it was clear that they were scared and more than a little put off by the super-icky challenge.

Again, the problem is that children are too psychologically unformed and thus potentially vulnerable to handle extremely stressful situations.

Later in the show, a different kind of problematic situation presented itself when a parent harangued her daughter for not being fast enough in accomplishing a stressful task.

The girl's baleful glare at her mother said it all: She was mortified to be so utterly embarrassed in full view of millions of viewers—and by her own mother, at that.

It was also disconcerting to hear some parents practically bribing their kids to do their utmost to win the cash, car and other prizes up for grabs in the competition.

A dad promised his child a fat slice of the financial action, and another parent went the "automotive blandishment" route—all to unnerving effect.

How graphically materialistic can you get?

The idea of doing a "Family Fear Factor" competition is bright enough, because it gives the family TV audience more to empathize with and root for. It's also a good showcase for family unity, and for working together to achieve the same goal.

However, when the challenges are too stressful or off-putting, and when some parents behave in immature and materialistic ways, the bright idea quickly dims.

Adult contestants can responsibly subject themselves to practically any stressful or embarrassing experience, but children's more delicate psyches should be handled with greater care.

Ordinarily, we can expect their parents to do the protecting. However, in a high-stakes competition like "Fear Factor," some parents get so caught up in the heat of the moment that they lower their guard—and even become part of the problem that their kids are supposed to be protected against.

Feedback

FROM **Rosie Taganas** of Calamba City: "VSOP—Very Special Outstanding People—that's what the makers and advertisers of Napoleon Brandy are. Their new commercial stands up to the challenge to project the true Filipino image—a man in search of excellence, respect for family name, love for parents, a man who lives life to the fullest and enjoys celebrations.

"The commercial sets a new trend for advertising wine and liquor. Instead of the usual scantily clad women, it shows good Filipino traits we should be proud of. Please continue making commercials like this.

"Our leading TV networks should think of scrapping those dancers who are not really necessary on the noontime shows."

***

One hundred teachers and parents of students at Sophia School in Meycauayan, Bulacan, have signed this letter of commendation:

"We would like to commend, through your column, MTRCB and Channel 7 for the recent suspension of TV hosts **Joey de Leon** and **Joey Marquez** due to their use of vulgar language over national television.

"The decision is a strong indication that they are indeed our partners in protecting our children and other young viewers from TV practices which are not developmentally appropriate for them."

Red Box Karaoke

AT RED BOX Karaoke, each of the 41 rooms has its unique layout, with interiors done by designing sisters **Ivy** and **Cynthia Almario**. It utilizes advanced song technology and vibrant ambience for music lovers of all ages. Call 812-8828.

My birthday thank-you list

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

LIFE begins at 40, so they say. For me it also begins after midnight.

That's why I celebrated my 40th on the eve of my birthday at my one and only sanctuary, Watering Hole Brewery at the Shangri-La carpark building, with 18 bottles in my "cocktailion."

A span of 40 days has always been considered a transformation/cleansing period. So 40 years ought to be one major upheaval. As I welcomed friends and family to my bash, I remembered all the ups and downs, highs and lows they have seen me through. Growing with them has made me a stronger person. More turbulence may lie ahead but I've reached a point where I'm more relaxed to be me. I am no longer rattled by day-to-day inanities. I've been through hell and back. I'm no longer in limbo. And I know that I'm getting closer to paradise.

My celebration was indeed a foretaste of paradise. I felt so blessed being surrounded by people whom I know will stand by me through every September 22 of my *la vida loca*, no matter how *luka-luka* I get. I am indebted to each of them for life and even after life.

The highlight of my party was the impromptu concert by my forever fave, True Faith band, led by my kindred spirit **Medwin Marfil**, my sweetheart of a friend **Ogie Alcasid**, my funky sistah **Maegan Aguilar**, my cool bud **Rannie Raymundo** and gentle soul **Pido**.

I have always been a music buff. I have a song for every chapter of my colorful life. As I was enjoying the birthday serenade and I listened with my heart, so many memories ran through my mind. It made me miss my mom all the more. It's my first birthday without her physically around anymore but she lives on through me. I am more than proud knowing that she has always called me her "extension."

My ma waited four days after my birthday last year before she joined the Lord. That's how much she loves me. She's the gift I was born with.

My mom has left a permanent void in my life but my friends and family somehow compensate for it. They all reiterated their support during my birthday bash. I'd like to believe that each of them is an angel whom my mom has handpicked to look out for me in her behalf.

Allow me to express my thanks to them in the best way I know how, through my writing. You can't reread a phone call, and text messages get deleted, but the magic of the written heartfelt word stays on. I could just send them a personal thank-you card but that wouldn't suffice. I'd like the whole world to know how wonderful they are and how much they have changed my life for the better. So, here goes, my birthday thank-you list.

My family, especially **Ricky** and **Clara**, and my kids **Bianch** and **Ice**. Thanks for being daily reminders of mom's love.

My "Celebrity Dat Com" family. *Maraming salamat* for giving me a chance to continue my ma's legacy in my own little way.

My Watering Hole Brewery family, especially **Tati** and **Loy Fortuna**. All my love and gratitude for spoiling me more than I deserve.

My friends outside show biz, especially **Jane, Jie, Vince, Susan, Jinky, Joy, Christine, Allan R., Edwin** and **Bok**. I cannot thank you enough for not being star-struck and for keeping me "real."

True Faith Band and our T.F. *tropa*. Cheers to the pure joy your music and our friendship bring from sunrise to sunset as we party on!

Ogie Alcasid. My endless thanks for countless reasons!

Maegan Aguilar. *Namaste*, my K.S. sis! Love yah much too much!

Luke Mejares. *Damo gid na salamat pangga* for being a friend over and beyond the call of duty!

Rannie Raymundo. Thank you for valuing what my ma has done for you and for giving the same importance to our friendship.

Pido. Thanks for being so warm and cool in equal parts.

Nina. Deepest thanks for letting our friendship get deeper and sweeter.

Nyoy Volante. Super thanks for dazzling me with your music, magic tricks and friendship.

Cesar Montano and **Sunshine Cruz**. Thanks from the bottom of my heart for being among my few real friends in the unreal

MY BIRTHDAY/ A27

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 FENG SHUI FS: 12:20PM, 2:45PM, 5:10PM, 7:35PM LMF: 10:00PM (PG - 13)
2 BOURNE SUPREMACY FS: 10:50AM, 1:05PM, 3:20PM, 5:35PM, 7:50PM LMF: 10:05PM (PG - 13)
3 THE TERMINAL FS: 12:40PM, 3:20PM, 6:00PM LMF: 8:40PM (GP)
4 EXORCIST FS: 11:00AM, 1:25PM, 3:50PM, 6:15PM, LMF: 8:40PM (R - 13)
PREMIERE THEATRE BOURNE SUPREMACY FS: 12:35PM, 2:50PM, 5:05PM, 7:20PM, LMF: 9:35PM (PG - 13)
For more information please call 633-2227 / 633-7851 loc. 171
Shangri-La Plaza

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
ClickTheCity.com
CTC MOV EASTWOOD send to 2333 for Globe and 225 for Smart
For inquiries, call: 687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
1 FENG SHUI 10:30, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 10:20 PG-13
2 BOURNE SUPREMACY 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 10:00 R-13
3 THE TERMINAL 11:05, 2:00, 4:55, 7:50, 10:45 GP
4 THE EXORCIST 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:30 PG-13

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 BOURNE SUPREMACY 11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15 PG13
CINEMA 2 SAVED 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50 PG13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496
MUSIC MUSEUM
OCTOBER 2-3 & 15-16 ALL ABOUT MEN (PENISTALKS) 8:30PM
OCTOBER 8 & 9 OGIE ALCASID 9:00PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

MARKET! MARKET! Bonifacio Global City
DISCOVER THOUSANDS OF FINDS. HAGGLE FOR GREAT BUYS. EXPERIENCE ALL THESE IN A VAST AIR-CONDITIONED, CLEAN, SECURE, AND SAFE SHOPPING ENVIRONMENT.
The fun is in the finds
cinemas! cinemas!
CUSTOMER SERVICE HOTLINE UNDER CINEMAS: 886-7515
1 BOURNE SUPREMACY
2 THE TERMINAL
3 EXORCIST
4 FENG SHUI
5 HEAVEN'S POND
6 THE NOTEBOOK
7 13 GOING 30
Developed and managed by Ayala Land, Inc. Another retail innovation.

INQBOX

Question of the Week

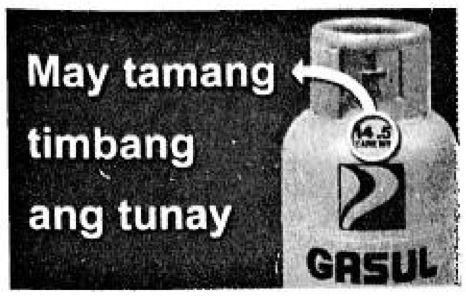
What is your reaction to the plan of the government to raise taxes on cigarettes and alcohol/beer (ex. P1 to P2 pesos per cigarette pack), to help reduce our fiscal deficit?

Winner Romel Tabug with his Guyito stuffed toy

Texters hus messages R printd in Tuesday's INQBOX *wiL each receiv an *Inquirer t-shirt! :)*

Key in: inquirer news name/city/message. Text your answers to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart).

(Maximum of 160 characters)


May tamang timbang ang tunay
GASUL

TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 28, 2004
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BUSINESS
E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inq7money.net
Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma
Text us your feedback: Inquirer biz name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

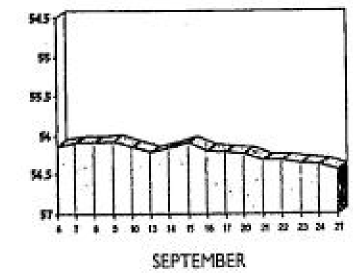
Ics rental service
Just one call. We make it easy for you.
ICS Rental Service offers a wide range of IT solutions for your business needs
For inquiries, call 727-3801 Ext. 532

Ad valorem tax on 'sin' products bucked

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



SEPTEMBER

P56.45 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 27, 2004

¥110.85 = $1

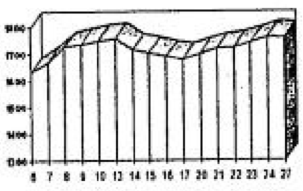
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 27, 2004

GOLD: $407.60-408.10

per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 27, 2004

STOCK MARKET

Stocks slip on profit-taking



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCKS eased lower yesterday as investors took profits in property firm Metro Pacific Corp. and other selected shares after the main index hit its highest level in nearly 4-½ years last week.

Traders said investors also took the rise in oil prices as an excuse to cash in.

"The market is just taking a rest before it makes an assault toward the 1,800-point level," said Astro del Castillo, managing director at First Grade Holdings.

The main index fell 2.97 points or 0.17 percent to 1,760.33 points yesterday but is still 22 percent higher since the start of the year.

Losers outpaced gainers 43 to 26, with 53 stocks unchanged.

Turnover dropped to P814.17 million from P1.1 billion on Friday.

Analysts attributed the renewed interest in Philippine stocks since late August to relatively cheap valuations and signs that President Macapagal-Arroyo was serious about reducing the country's budget deficit.

Del Castillo said investors were worried about the effects of the rise in oil prices on import-dependent countries like the Philippines.

US light crude for November delivery was up 42 cents at $49.30 a barrel in ACCESS trading on Monday, nearing its record high of $49.40 on Aug. 20.

Metro Pacific Corp., the Philippine flagship of Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd., fell 1.69 percent or one centavo to 58 centavos. It gained 15.69 percent on Friday.

Reuters

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance is not in favor of the popular opinion in the Lower House to revert to the ad valorem system of taxing cigarettes and alcohol, saying doing so would only bring back old problems encountered by the government prior to 1997.

A finance official said the DOF would stand firm on its own proposal on how to tax sin products when deliberations on the different versions of the bill on taxing cigarettes and alcohol resume next month.

"There are a lot of versions now in Congress, but the DOF will be pushing for its own version of the bill and will insist on our position not to go back to the ad valorem system," the finance official said. While there are several versions of the bill filed in Congress, most of them seek the return of the ad valorem system.

The government was collecting excise tax on cigarettes and alcohol using the ad valorem system until 1997, or when the new National Internal Revenue Code was implemented. The ad valorem was replaced by the specific taxation system.

Under the old ad valorem system, products were taxed based on their price and using tax rates in percentage form. Under the current specific system, on the other hand, products are being taxed based on the volume of cigarettes or alcohol released from a manufacturing plant, and using tax rates expressed in peso value.

According to the finance official, the reason why the government had to impose the specific system was because of the transfer-pricing being resorted to by cigarette firms to evade paying higher taxes. Since the old ad valorem system used wholesale prices to determine one's excise tax liabilities, some cigarette companies set their wholesale prices at low levels, and then set the prices much higher when the products are sold by their marketing arms.

"This is why we do not want to go back to the ad valorem system because it is prone to manipulation as proven by the practice of transfer pricing. Using volume as a basis of taxation is better than price," the finance official said.

Some legislators proposed that instead of wholesale prices, retail prices should be used as a basis of taxation to solve the problem on transfer pricing and therefore make the ad valorem system work effectively. The DOF, however, said that using retail price as a basis of taxation would be complicated to implement.

The DOF said that if retail price would be used as a basis, there would be confusion as from whom the government would collect the excise tax. Under the current specific system and the old ad valorem system that used wholesale price as a basis of taxation, the government collects the tax directly from the manufacturing plant.

AD VALOREM/ B6

T-bill rates drop; 91-day yield at 7.639%

By Michelle V. Remo

AWASH with cash, banks scrambled for short-term government securities yesterday, forcing the benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate to decline to 7.639 percent during yesterday's auction.

This was 7.9 basis points lower than the 7.718 percent recorded during the auction two weeks ago.

The rate for the 364-day debt paper also declined, hitting 9.773 percent yesterday from 9.975 the previous auction. The rate for the 182-day bills stood at 8.536 percent. The Bureau of Treasury's auction committee rejected bids for the 182-day debt paper two weeks ago because of the very high bids.

The lower rates for the short-term government securities were brought by the huge appetite of the market for the debt paper, which were all over-subscribed. Bids for the 91-day bills reached P4.78 billion compared with the government's offering of only P4.5 billion. Tenders for the 182-day bills stood at P4.92 billion compared with the government's P3.5-billion offering. The 364-day paper was the most subscribed, with tenders reaching P10.31 billion, or more than three times higher than the government's scheduled borrowing of only P3 billion.

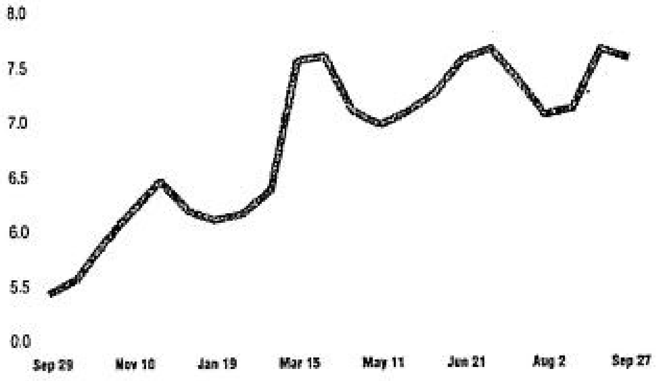
National Treasurer Mina Figueroa, who heads the auction committee, said banks only exhibited normal market reaction when they offered lower bid prices. She said banks were unreasonably factoring in an increase in US interest rates and inflation, which have already been accounted for in earlier auctions, in trying to push T-bill rates higher.

"We have already set caps (on the maximum acceptable rates

T-BILL/ B2

91-DAY TREASURY BILL RATES

Sept. 29, 2003 to Sept. 27, 2004



Mining sector lures investors

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A CANADIAN mineral exploration firm last week announced it confirmed gold and copper prospects in the country while the government said at least P4 billion worth of large-scale mining projects were expected to start within the next five years.

Alberta-based Mindoro Resources Ltd. said in a statement that geological tests confirmed a "porphyry" copper-gold system on its Archangel project in Batangas.

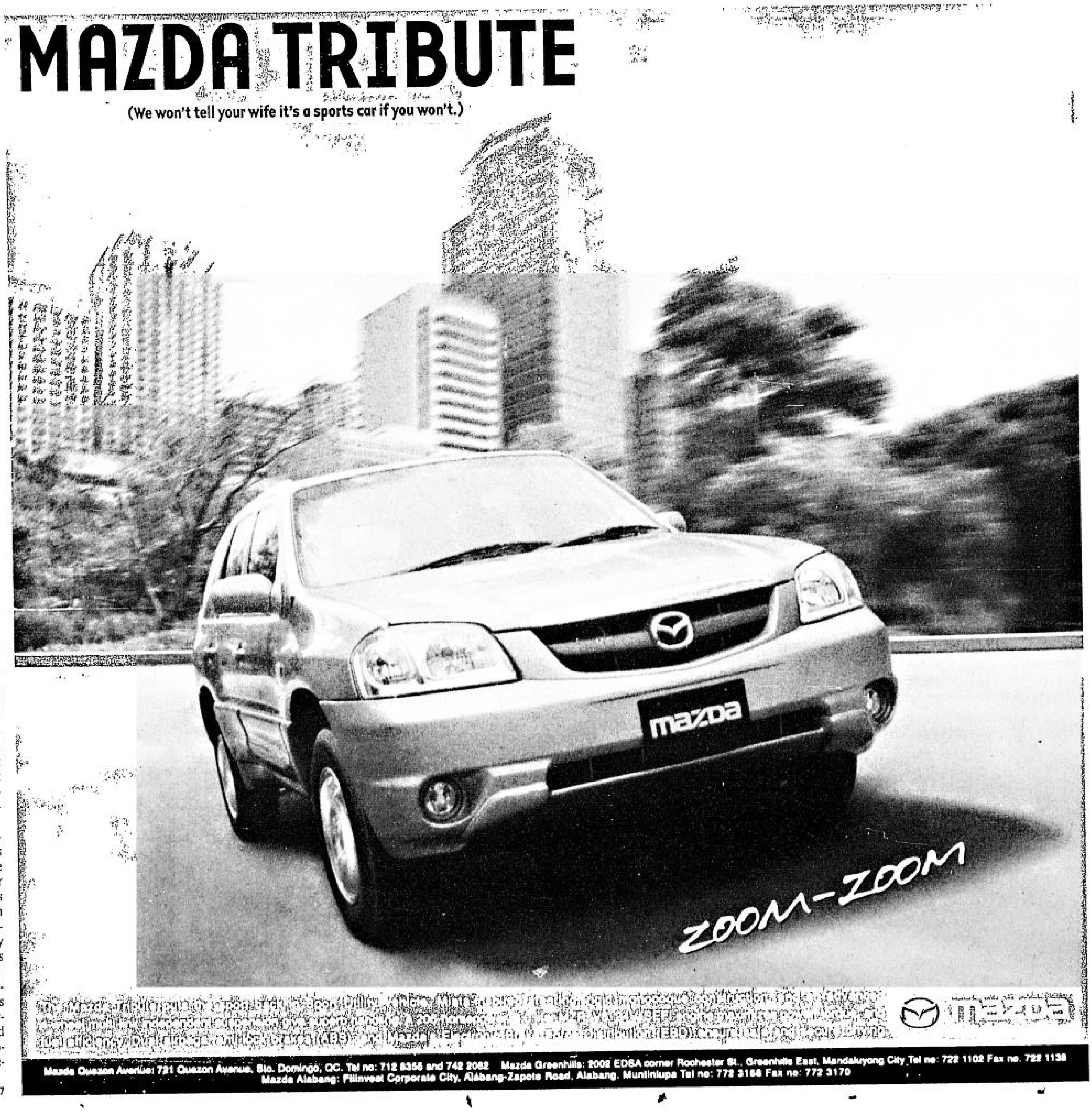
The company explained that the term referred to "a large-tonnage, relatively low-grade copper-gold deposit containing very large copper and gold resources, which could be (mined in bulk)."

Mindoro Resources, which recently listed its shares on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange, announced a week earlier about a similar finding at its Tapian San Francisco project in Surigao.

The firm's website described it as having been active in the country for the past seven years and "is focused on six promising projects in politically stable jurisdictions in the Philippines."

In a related matter, the Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade said in an economic outlook re-

MINING/ B7


MAZDA TRIBUTE
(We won't tell your wife it's a sports car if you won't.)
mazda
Mazda Quezon Avenue: 721 Quezon Avenue, Sto. Domingo, QC. Tel no: 712 8356 and 742 2082 Mazda Greenhills: 2002 EDSA corner Rochester St., Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City Tel no: 722 1102 Fax no. 722 1138
Mazda Alabang: Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang-Zapote Road, Alabang, Muntinlupa Tel no: 772 3168 Fax no: 772 3170

Absolute power collapse

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IN BUSINESS circles, they love to put this country down. They used to say that we were the sick man of Asia. Now they are saying that we are already in the ICU.

Sure, Vietnam is doing better than us. That country now uses up some 24 million metric tons of cement every year. To catch up with the rest of Asean, we use up only 12 million tons.

In a few years, surely, we can expect Vietnam to have far better infrastructure than ours. That's not bad for a country that has yet to switch over to democracy.

But still, whenever I hear a know-it-all executive badmouth this country, I tell him to his face, and I don't even hold back on the splattering saliva, if in his heart he truly believes, as a natural born Filipino, that this country is sick, or that it is even about to die, how come we are still the world's leader in ... well, cell phone "texting."

Take that! I do not take insults thrown upon my own country lightly. I cannot help it.

* * *

JUST yesterday morning, this cute administration of Gloriaetta again showed the world that it is dead serious in preventing another debilitating power crisis in three years.

The Asian Development Bank says that we must build new power plants for 6,000 megawatts in the next 10 years.

And what are we doing about it? Well, as I write this, we are still doing our darnedest best to do nothing at all.

But the news report said that the country's biggest of big business, namely, San Miguel Corp. and First Pacific, are bidding for the new state-owned firm called Transco.

That's the company which was formed, as part of the energy sector reform program, to sell the transmission lines under the privatization program of Napocor.

Based on the reports, obviously leaked by the government, you may get the impression that, finally, things are moving in the power sector.

Well, they are moving in media. That's the thing with this cute administration. If it deals with the problem in media, it is considered as "solved." Next one please!

* * *

AS GREAT things happen in our country in media, thanks to Malacañang media releases, whether official or otherwise, the looming power crisis remains a big worry in business.

Somebody must do something about the problem. It is keeping business away from even just planning to do more business. You know, the "what if" factor!

That's why the news must get to media, somehow, that the energy sector reform program is underway. Look, Mamonluk, they are even fighting over Transco! Something like that!

Being a publicly listed firm, however, SMC was even forced by the reports to make a full disclosure to the stock exchange, something about what the Transco deal was all about.

Actually, SMC only got an invitation from two gigantic foreign groups, namely, Deutsche Bank and Singapore Power, to join a consortium to bid for Transco.

And why not, coconut? Based on a recent statement from SMC chair and CEO Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., the conglomerate is on the lookout for investments.

Danding said that, in the next three years, SMC itself is setting aside P15 billion for fresh investments. In short, to Danding and company, money is not an object.

* * *

HERE are the exact words of the SMC boss: "This consistent focus to grow our market reflects SMC's continuing confidence in the Philippine economy."

So there you have it: it's about CONFIDENCE. SMC is investing tons of money in this country because it believes that we still have a future.

To Danding, our economic fundamentals remain sound. He notes the rise in private consumption, thanks mainly to the OFWs, plus the jump in exports.

Moreover, if you consider that this SMC expansion is unprecedented in its 114 years of existence, you too may find hope in this country of avid "texters."

This year, from what I hear, SMC is ready to inaugurate two huge food processing plants, owned by its subsidiary Purefoods, one in Cavite and the other in Batangas.

And then it is opening a new flour mill, which has a separate flour blending facility, plus a couple of feed mills in Bataan and Misamis Oriental, a big broiler farm in Bulacan, and hog farms in Tarlac and Bukidnon.

To top it all, SMC is putting up an industrial park in Laguna, where it will locate some more manufacturing plants.

And don't even think of trying to stop it. SMC is pouring more money in its beverage making facilities. For what, you may ask? For exports!

* * *

BUT precisely because of its expansion in manufacturing, SMC itself seems to be worried about the power crisis. Last summer, from what I hear, it actually bought the used power generator from the San Roque dam project.

SMC can put money in the energy sector. Why not? Money is the least of its problems, and it can help prevent a repeat of the 12-hour long blackouts.

But the thing is, under its by-laws, SMC is committed to stay in the food business. To go into the power sector, it will need the approval of its stockholders to amend its by-laws.

To do that, management needs to get the approval of the board. Management also needs to study—and study it hard enough—whether or not an investment in Transco will yield the same returns as, say, an investment in food.

It's not as if, just because of the media reports, SMC is already set on bidding for Transco. Far from it, *Bubwit*! SMC is not in the habit of throwing away money.

* * *

BUT make no mistake: The power crisis is real. In a conference on energy sponsored by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, one speaker noted that the power shortage should be expected in 2007 or early 2008.

If we were to prevent it, he said, we should make the order for a power plant in the next 60 days. And that was in May 2004! More than 120 days ago!

Now we have all of three years to do it. We should be starting now. If we don't, we will only repeat the mistake of the Kuya Eddie administration.

At that time, with blackouts running up to 12 hours a day, Kuya Eddie had to go for the so-called "fast track." Result: the famous IPPs.

They are the private generation plants which became famous for onerous contracts, almost synonymous to first degree murder of the Filipino consumers.

What we need are the "merchant plants." They can sell electricity to distributors and industrial users at competitive rates. After all, creating competition is what we want out of the energy reform program. It's not media value and all that s..t!

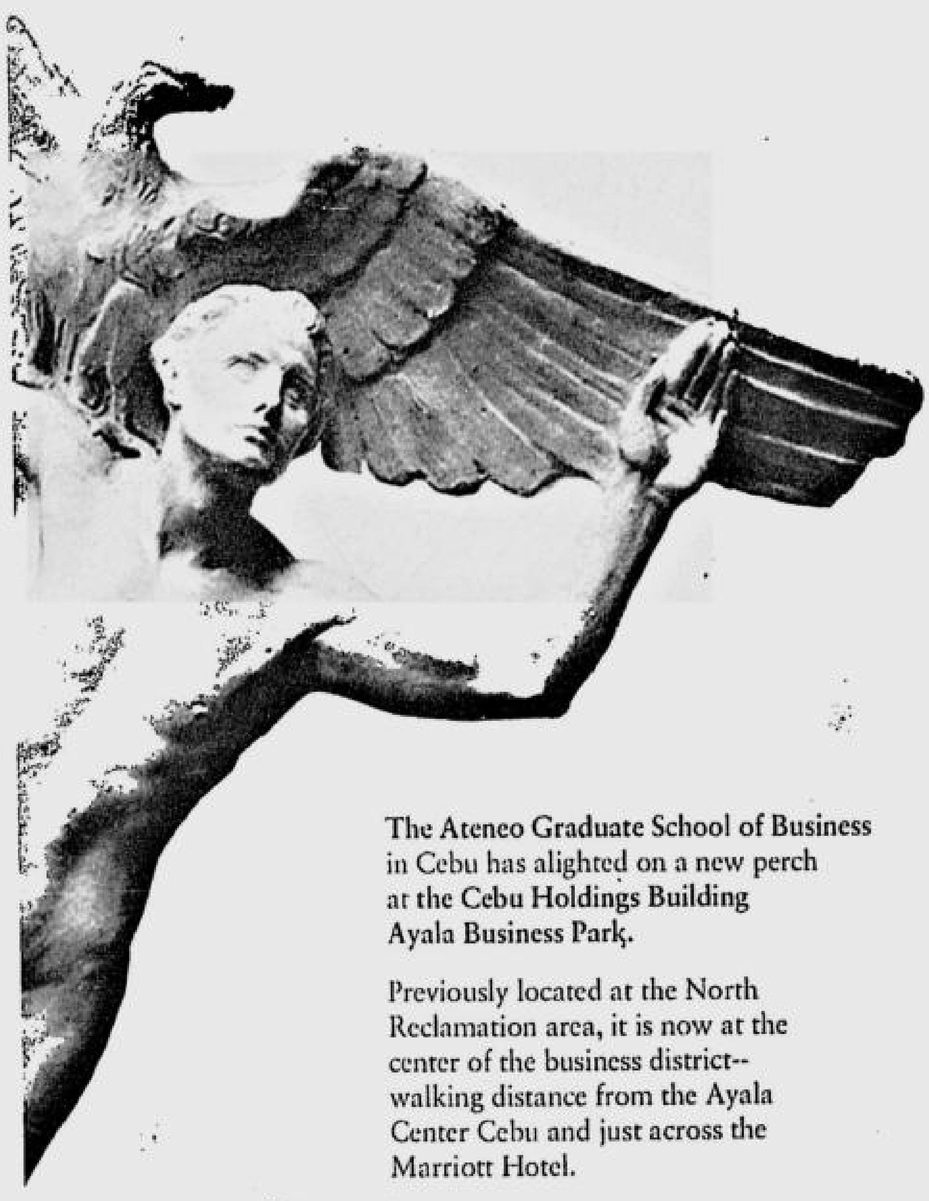
9th national convention on statistics starts on Oct. 4

THE NINTH National Convention on Statistics will be held on Oct. 4 and 5 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City.

The convention, held every three years, will bring together some 600 statisticians, computer engineers, applied scientists and researchers from all over the country to share, learn and improve knowledge and skills in the field of statistics.

Speakers of the two-day event, which has the theme "Rising Beyond Global Challenges Through Quality Philippine Statistics," will cover topics on statistical applications in industry, education, health, environment, science, technology, local governance and other fields.

For more information, please contact the Convention Secretariat at the National Statistical Coordination Board, 2nd Midland Buendia Building, 403 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, telephone numbers: 897-2170, 8952436; or email: ncs@nscb.gov.ph.



ATENEO GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
MIGRATES TO A NEW VANTAGE POINT IN CEBU

The Ateneo Graduate School of Business in Cebu has alighted on a new perch at the Cebu Holdings Building Ayala Business Park.

Previously located at the North Reclamation area, it is now at the center of the business district--walking distance from the Ayala Center Cebu and just across the Marriott Hotel.

ATENEO GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
G/F Cebu Holdings Building
Ayala Business Park, Cebu City
Tel 032-2321665 and 032-2319478

T-bill ...

From page B1

for government securities). We are more firm this time in implementing these caps, that's why banks offered lower rates now," Figueroa said in a briefing after the auction.

Figueroa, whose resignation takes effect on Oct. 15, said the auction committee had set the cap for the 91-day bills at 7.775 percent and for the 364-day paper at 10 percent. She said the committee has not set a cap for the 182-day bills as they did not expect absurdly high bids for these securities.

Figueroa said that based on the levels deemed acceptable by the auction committee, they accepted only P3.95 billion worth of bids for the 91-day paper and did not raise the entire amount of the scheduled borrowing of P4.5 billion. For the 182- and 364-day bills, the committee accepted P3.5 billion and P3 billion worth of bids, respectively, raising the full amount of the borrowing program.

Figueroa defended the Treasury's move of setting caps, explaining that this was practical to prevent unreasonable increases in interest rates. "Though rates should basically be market-determined, the Treasury also has to step in to help get rates that are acceptable for the government," she said.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 27, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17	17.25	17	17.25	8,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45.5	45.5	45.5	45.5	170,600
China Banking Corp.	530	530	530	530	600
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	42	42.5	42	42	6,800
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	230,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28.5	28.5	28	28	29,000
Prudential Bank	350	350	350	350	110
Philippine National Bank	22.5	22.5	22.5	22.5	2,200
Phil. Savings Bank	28	28	28	28	10,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	30,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	24.25	24.25	24.25	24.25	5,300
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1	1	1	1	20,000
First Abacus Financial	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	117	117	117	117	2,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1635	1640	1635	1640	590
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21	21	21	21	12,700
Diversified Fin. Network	5	5	5	5	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.87	0.91	0.86	0.88	48,430,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1090	1095	1070	1095	54,880
Ipeople Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	75,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.0525	0.0525	0.05	0.0525	3,500,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.75	2.75	13,643,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	25,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1405	1415	1390	1390	109,620
Ivantage Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.66	0.66	2,230,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	27,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.5	16	15.5	15.5	54,400
Manila Electric Co. B	24.5	25.5	24	24.25	1,358,200
Petron Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.8	2.8	1,407,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	5,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.1	45,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.42	2,070,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	4.9	5.1	4.9	5.1	1,661,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	40,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	110,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	200,000
Union Cement Corp.	2.6	2.85	2.6	2.7	23,175,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.95	3	2.95	2.95	4,997,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29	29	28.5	28.5	55,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	26	26	26	26	76,400
Swift Food Inc.	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.37	30,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58	58	57.5	57.5	21,100
San Miguel Corp. B	71.5	71.5	71.5	71.5	166,300
Universal Robina Corp.	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	57,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	410,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	15,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	29,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6.4	6.5	6.2	6.3	4,946,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.4	3.4	3.35	3.35	681,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	600,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.32	1.38	1.32	1.38	1,668,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	10,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	10,000
ATN Holdings Inc. B	1.68	1.7	1.68	1.68	50,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	14.5	14.5	14.25	14.25	20,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.1	0.1	1,930,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.58	0.6	0.56	0.57	13,980,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	10,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	750,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.16	0.17	0.155	0.155	8,000,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.16	2.18	2.14	2.14	1,646,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.04	780,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	2,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	27.5	27.5	27	27	145,400
Forum Pacific Inc	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	160,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.075	0.0725	0.075	3,100,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	150,000
Ionics Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.04	2.06	285,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.86	1.88	1.86	1.88	239,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.52	1.6	1.5	1.6	112,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.26	1.28	7,048,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	200,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.6	0.61	0.56	0.58	191,980,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	360,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	340,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	50,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.165	0.17	0.165	0.165	3,940,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	20,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	2,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	506,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.95	0.98	0.93	0.93	230,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	200,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	70,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.71	0.72	0.7	0.7	9,170,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.39	0.41	0.39	0.4	370,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	70,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	50,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	40,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	21.25	21.25	21	21	435,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	11	11	11	11	400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	10,000
Far Eastern University	420	420	420	420	50
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.5	6.6	6.4	6.5	3,203,000
C & P Homes Inc	0.44	0.45	0.41	0.42	13,160,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	200,000
Elb Realty Developers Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	20,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.35	0.36	18,580,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	20,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.12	1.2	1.12	1.18	69,061,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	100,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	70,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	400,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.46	0.47	0.45	0.45	1,030,000
SM Development Corp.	1.02	1.02	1	1	150,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.3	7,364,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	40,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	6,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	1,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	1,410,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	350,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.014	132,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.017	39,800,000
Oriinco Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	275,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.026	0.026	3,600,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	200,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	12,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	270,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	80,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	100,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	11,000

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED to the board of directors of **Anglo Philippine Holdings Corp.** were Alfredo Ramos, Presentacion Ramos, Augusto Sunico, Patrick Caoile, Maximo Licauco III, Christopher Gotanco, Francisco Navarro, Roberto San Jose, Victor Benavidez, Noel Del Castillo and Leonardo Arguelles Jr.

* * *

ELECTED regular members of the board of directors of **Philippine Estates Corp.** were Antonio Henson, Dee Hua Gatchalian, Elvira Ting, Kenneth Gatchalian, Lisandro Abadia, Yolanda Dela Cruz, Arthur Lopez, Renato Magadia, Angel Umali, Arthur Ponsaran and Joaquin Obieta.

* * *

MEMBERS of the board of directors of **Victorias Milling Co. Inc.** elected Norberto Capay as a director to replace Arthur Aguilar who resigned effective Aug. 31. They also accepted the resignation of Aristotle Villaraza as a member of the board and member of the executive committee as well as chair of the legal committee. Jose Chan Jr. was chosen to replace Villaraza. ***Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

September 27, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.815195	1.000000	56.3790
Japan	Yen	0.007369	0.009040	0.5097
United Kingdom	Pound	1.472080	1.805800	101.8092
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.104526	0.128222	7.2290
Switzerland	Franc	0.640058	0.792519	44.6814
Canada	Dollar	0.639419	0.784375	44.6814
Singapore	Dollar	0.482221	0.591541	33.3505
Australia	Dollar	0.581244	0.713012	40.1989
Bahrain	Dinar	2.162322	2.652520	149.5464
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.217386	0.266667	15.0344
Brunei	Dollar	0.480800	0.589797	33.2522
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000090	0.000110	0.0062
Thailand	Baht	0.019710	0.024178	1.3631
UAE	Dirham	0.221955	0.272272	15.3504
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.226700	69.1601
Argentina	Peso	0.272094	0.333778	18.8181
Brazil	Real	0.284140	0.348554	19.6511
Denmark	Kroner	0.134445	0.164924	9.2983
India	Rupee	0.017779	0.021810	1.2296
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.214531	0.263165	14.8370
Mexico	New Peso	0.071445	0.087642	4.9412
New Zealand	Dollar	0.543391	0.666578	37.5810
Norway	Kroner	0.119674	0.146804	8.2767
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013782	0.016906	0.9531
South Africa	Rand	0.127498	0.156402	8.8178
Korea	Won	0.000709	0.000870	0.0490
Sweden	Kroner	0.110704	0.135801	7.6563
Syria	Pound	0.022563	0.027678	1.5605
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024132	0.029603	1.6690
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000426	[illegible]	[illegible]

TRANSCO CONCESSION BID

It's know-how, not cash, that counts, says PSALM exec

By Abigail L. Ho
and Elizabeth L. Sanchez

ANY FIRM wanting to bag the 25-year concession agreement for the country's national power grid has to have the appropriate level of technical expertise and not only financial muscle, according to the top official of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM).

Raphael Lotilla, PSALM president, said Republic Act 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira) required firms vying for the National Transmission Corp. (Transco) concession to have enough technical and financial capabilities to manage and operate the national grid.

"They have to meet the requirements of the law," he said. "They have to meet some technical qualifications."

Food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. and conglomerate Metro Pacific Corp. are currently studying the possibility of bidding for the Transco concession.

While both firms have the financial muscle to acquire the contract, both do not have any experience in the power sector.

While not specifically referring to SMC and Metro Pacific, Lotilla said that unless a prospective Transco concessionaire had partners with enough technical capabilities in running a national transmission grid, they would not be considered suitable candidates for the contract.

Analysts balked at the possibility of SMC participating in the auction for the Transco concession contract as power was never part of the company's core competencies.

"It may have a negative effect since this is outside of their core business," a senior analyst from a local think tank said. "One, they have to sort out the regulatory environment (governing these assets), specially on the judiciary level."

While analysts reacted negatively to the SMC bid for the Tranco concession, they said it would make more sense for Metro Pacific to participate in the auction as it was now involved in infrastructure projects.

Metro Pacific, through Metro Strategic Infrastructure Holdings Inc., holds a 10-percent stake in Citra Metro Manila Tollway Corp., owner and operator of Skyway.

Five firms are currently in the running to bag the Transco concession agreement.

RP firm invests ₱27.6M for seaweed export

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PCI WORLDWIDE Inc., a 100-percent Filipino firm, is investing P27.6 million for the production and export of refined and semi-processed carageenan.

According to the Department of Trade and Industry, PCIWI's facility in Carmona, Cavite, would initially get the bulk of its seaweed requirements from the coastal areas of Mindanao.

However, PCIWI also has plans to source half of its raw materials from Southern Tagalog provinces, the Mindoros and Palawan.

PCIWI would help develop seaweed farming activities in those provinces by facilitating seminars on the proper method of seaweed cultivation, harvesting, drying and handling process, with help from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, DTI officials said.

PCIWI, whose venture would start commercial operation in March 2005, has assured the government it has an immediate market for its products.

Trade Undersecretary Elmer C. Hernandez said the government was encouraging investors to locate their projects in the marginal regions to create jobs and help in developing such areas.

"Among the support that is provided to these projects are tax incentives such as income tax holiday, tax credit in raw materials, and duty-free importation of capital equipment," Hernandez said.

Hernandez, who is managing head of the Board of Investments, said firms involved in such projects could also avail of assistance from government financial institutions.

The Philippines is one of the world's top producers of seaweeds—specifically the red variety—next only to China and Japan.

Seaweeds are exported in their raw form, fresh or dried, or processed forms, like semi-refined chips or carageenan and refined carageenan.

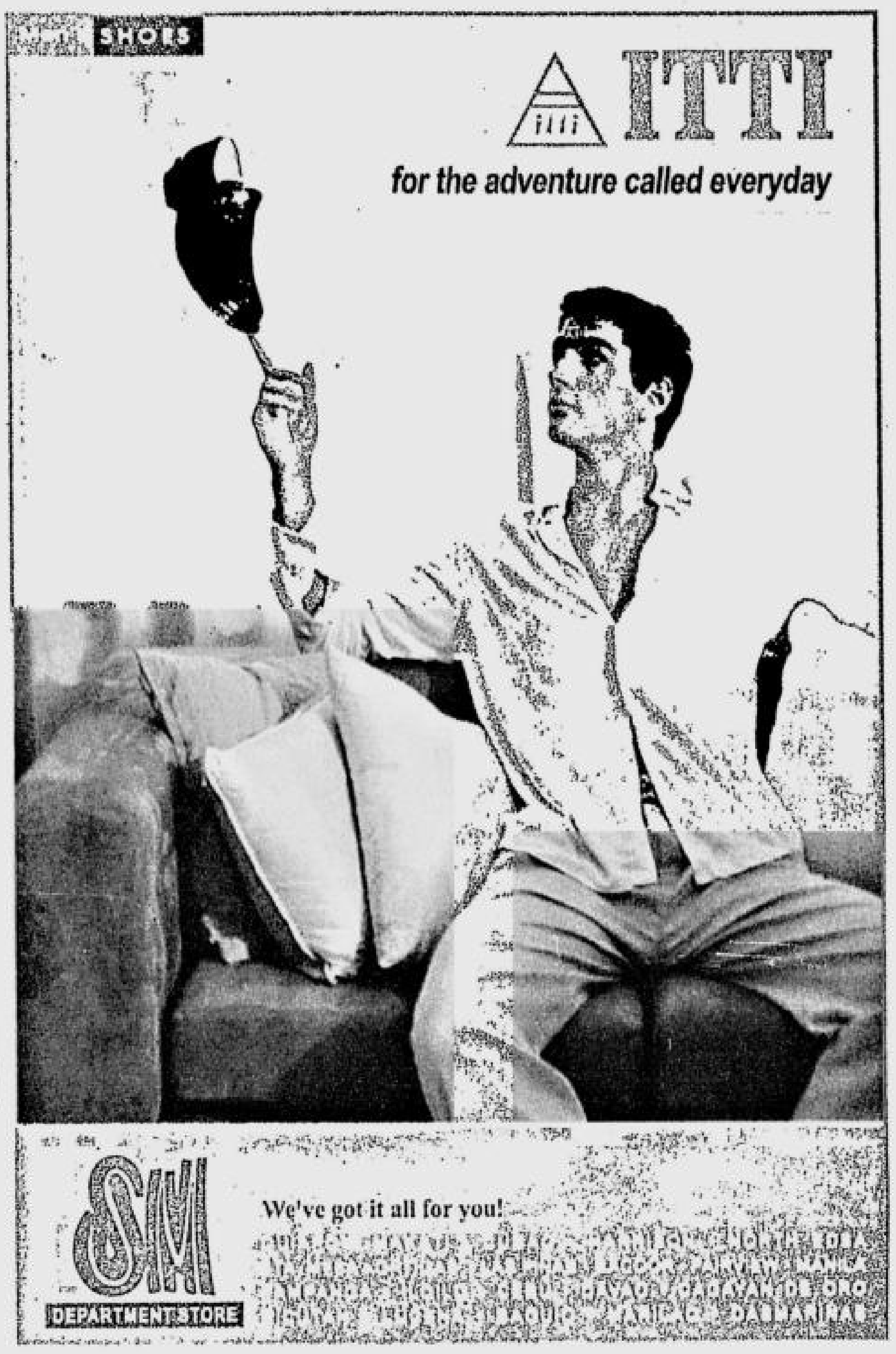
Major markets of seaweeds and its natural products are countries like France, Korea, China, USA and Hong Kong.

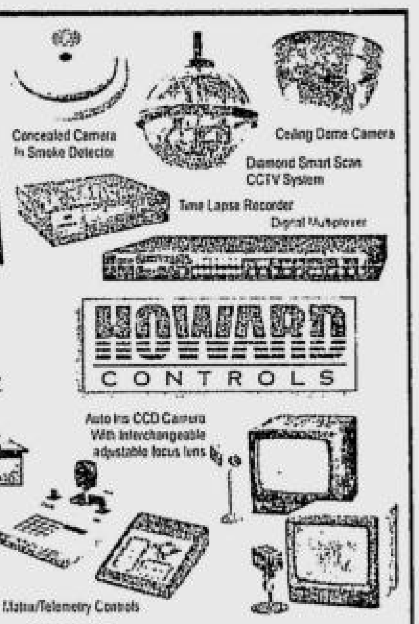
FRANCHISE SEMINAR
Learn all about Franchising, developing your business into a franchise, selecting a franchise, etc. – conducted by foreign Franchise Consultant with 25 years experience in 3 Continents & get introduced to available Franchises
Saturday, October 2, 2004 - 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Saffron Room, CRAVINGS Restaurant, Kalipunan Ave, QC
Seminar Fee Early Bird Rate P 995. For details please call:
RK FRANCHISE CONSULTANCY (02) 912-2946 / 912-2973
Nationwide Toll-free Number 1800-10-88888RK
Email: rk@rkfranchise.com Website: www.rkfranchise.com

PSBank
Peso TIME DEPOSIT

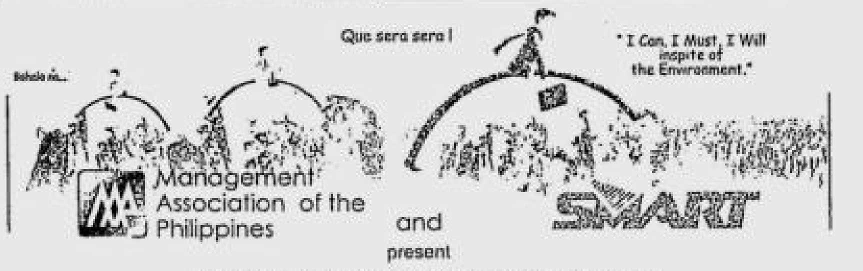
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
100,000 - 499,999	5.250	5.500	6.500
500,000 - 999,999	6.250	6.500	7.375
1.0MM - 4,999,999	7.250	7.375	7.625
5.0MM - 9,999,999	7.375	7.500	7.750
10 million and up	7.500	7.625	7.875

Quoted rates are subject to change without prior notice.
Rates are on per annum basis and net of documentary stamp taxes.
Interest rates for other terms also available.
Visit any of our 121 PSBank Branches nationwide.
Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum Deposit Insurance for each Depositor P250,000.00




Concealed Camera In Smoke Detector
Ceiling Dome Camera
Diamond Smart Scan CCTV System
Time Lapse Recorder
Digital Multiplexer
HOWARD CONTROLS
Auto Iris CCD Camera With Interchangeable adjustable focus lens
Matrix/Telemetry Controls

TO SEE IS TO BELIEVE, TO BE SAFE, AND NEVER TO BE SORRY
A burglar trying to break in your house... A stalker disturbing your home and privacy... A slacker wasting your company's precious time... You can watch all these and more without being discovered and protect yourself and your loved ones with this very reliable and affordable security system!
ACCESSORIES:
• CAMERA HOUSING • FIX OR ZOOM LENSES • VIDEO SWITCHES • VIDEO AMPLIFIERS • PAN/TILT/SCANNER • DIGITAL PROCESSORS
ALSO AVAILABLE:
• ULTRAK High Tech CCTV Equipment • FBII Fire & Burglary Alarm System • MDI Access Control & Building Automation System
• RETH Hotel Card Key Card Access Electronic Lock System, Automatic Gate System • PERIMETER Protection System
• Metal Detection Equipment and other electronic security related products.
SERVICES:
• SYSTEM DESIGN & CONSULTANCY • INSTALLATION • AFTER SALES SERVICE & MAINTENANCE
yutiam electronic security division
936-938 T. Mapua St., Manila
Tels.: (632) 711-4959 to 61 Fax: (632) 711-4810


Bahala na...
Que sera sera!
"I Can, I Must, I Will inspite of the Environment."

Management Association of the Philippines and SMART present
3rd MAP International CEO Conference
Conference theme:
"Survive and Excel In Turbulent Times"
11 November 2004, Thursday
Rizal Ballroom, Makati Shangri-La
Speaker: Mr. ERRAMON ABOITIZ
EVP and COO
Aboitiz Equity Ventures
Speaker: Mr. HENRY T. CO
President
Ford Motor Company Philippines
SPONSORS: List in progress...
DIAMOND
INQUIRER Microsoft
GOLD
BusinessWorld
SILVER
AIM
AIR FRANCE KLM
GROUP OF COMPANIES
BRONZE PLUS
IBM
BRONZE
Development Bank of the Philippines
RCBC
Sun
SESSION ON "CREATING A BUILT-TO-LAST FIRM"
This session will highlight strategies on how large organizations and diversified conglomerates, both local and global, strengthen their fundamentals and refocus their core businesses in order to survive, thrive and succeed. How do their performance score cards differ from other players in the field? What are they doing differently that sets them apart from the rest? How do they do it when others in the same league fail? Finally, given the size, magnitude and broader reach of businesses in this category, how is change managed successfully in an environment where speed and innovation are becoming "Must's" rather than "nice-to-have's?"
This Conference is open to the public.
Management Association of the Philippines
For Reservations:
Please contact the MAP Secretariat at <mapsec@globenet.com.ph>
751-1149 to 52 or
Conference Committee Chair
Franco G. del Rosario at <sixsigma@textron.com>

PHILIPPINE CONSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION, INC.

2004
OFFICERS
EMILIO J. TUMBOCON
President
JUSTO E. MANALO
Immediate Past President
JORGE A. CONSUNJI
1st Vice President
LEVY V. ESPIRITU
2nd Vice President
SAMMY C. LAZO
Secretary
ERIC A. CRUZ
Treasurer
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
RAMON F. ALLADO
ALBERT D. ALTURA
JOHN A. BAUTISTA
BERCK Y. CHENG
DOMINADOR M. CRUZ
NAPOLEON G. CO
ELSIE P. MATALOTE
RAMON ALBERTO B. NOLIDO
EDWIN F. SALAZAR
PHILIP JOHN THOBURN
MA. ELENA GO FRANCISCO
Corporate Secretary / Legal Counsel
MANOLITO P. MADRASTO
Executive Director
FOUNDING MEMBER
ACF

27 September 2004

HER EXCELLENCY GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President of the Republic of the Philippines
Malacañang Palace, Manila

Your Excellency:

As the country faces an impending "fiscal crisis", the local construction industry has been in a "financial crisis" for the past several years, the likes of which never before experienced since the last world war.

The industry understands what you have announced, for it is the industry that has quietly borne the brunt of the "fiscal crisis". While our contracts with government stipulates progress payments within 45 calendar days from date of billing, reality shows that the approval process alone has reached 90 days before our claims are forwarded to the DBM for cash releases. The "fiscal crisis" has made a DPWH contractor's life miserable, as collections are completed only after 6 to 9 months.

On your instructions, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, together with Public Works Secretary Florante Soriquez and Presidential Adviser Teodoro Encarnacion, met with the leadership of the local construction industry last 05 August 2004 and came up with a doable action plan that could provide some form of relief to DPWH contractors, namely:

1. While it has been the standard practice of DBM to provide for a monthly P2.0 Billion Cash Release Program, a second Cash Release of P2.7 Billion was promised for August 2004. *This was indeed effected on the third week of August 2004.*
2. The Cash Release Program is increased to P3.0 Billion starting September 2004 up to the end of the year, every third week of the month. *We have been advised that the actual cash to be released for September would be P3.6Billion and DPWH contractors are keenly awaiting at their banks as their various creditors are likewise awaiting payment of their own claims.*
3. A Task Force was created composed of representatives from DBM, DPWH & PCA, with the assistance of Secretary Encarnacion to formalize and implement the PCA proposed Bills Purchase Facility, which shall "securitize" DPWH Due and Demandable Payables to Contractors and shall be available for discounting with participating financial institutions. The discount shall be borne by the DPWH contractor and not the government. *The Task Force has met twice and now in the process of negotiations with the banking institutions.*
4. An inventory of all DPWH Unfunded Claims is to be made and for immediate submission to the DBM, who shall locate ways and means to ensure that legitimate claims shall be funded accordingly and ultimately for inclusion into the Cash Release Program. *A DPWH Memorandum was issued 09 September 2004 to all DPWH Project Directors and Finance Officers directing the inventory.*
5. All DPWH contractors that are affected by the ADB-DPWH dispute shall be appropriately consulted, with negotiations to immediately commence whether to accept or reject the new plans of DPWH on their on-going ADB-assisted contracts. *To date, all affected contractors have already suspended work for non-payment of billings and we are still awaiting movement on this issue.*

The industry realizes that even with these action plans, the problems will still be with us for quite some time. But we must acknowledge our appreciation when such is due. Our plea to Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, for solutions to the industry's financial difficulties has been addressed and heard, though momentarily.

Maraming maraming salamat po!

EMILIO J. TUMBOCON
President

3RD FLOOR PADILLA BUILDING EMERALD AVE. ORTIGAS CENTER PASIG CITY PHILIPPINES 1605
P.O. BOX 12713 ORTIGAS CENTER ASSN. PASIG CITY PHILIPPINES 1605
Tel Nos 633-4989 · 631-2776 · 631-3135 · 638-8075 · 635-9276 · Fax (632) 631-2766 / 635-9276
E-mail: email@philconstruct.com · Website: http://www.philconstruct.com

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Globe Handyphone, Yehey! pioneer online reloading

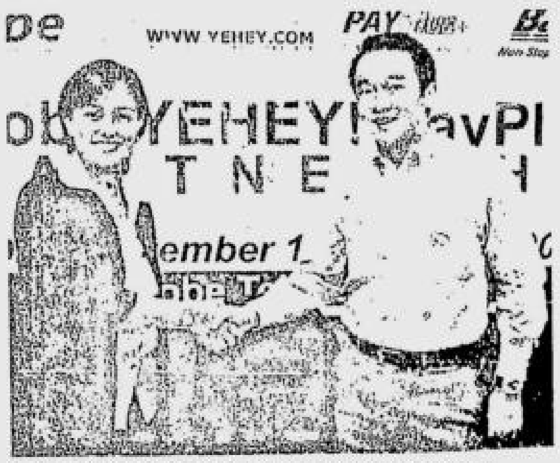
AFTER introducing their subscribers to the wonders of electronic reloading and load-sharing with AutoloadMAX and Share-a-Load, Globe Handyphone pioneers yet another convenient reloading option: online reloading. This service is made possible by a partnership with PayPlus+, BancNet and premiere Filipino search engine Yehey!

To reload Prepaid credits via the internet, Globe Prepaid and Touch Mobile subscribers must have an existing Savings or Current account with any of the following BancNet members: Metrobank, RCBC, RCBC Savings, Allied Bank, China Bank and Chinatrust. Eligible subscribers may then log on to http://autoload.yehey.com and start reloading prepaid credits!

P150, P250, P300, P500 and P1000 denominations are available for Globe Prepaid subscribers. Touch Mobile subscribers, on the other hand, have the option of reloading P150, P200, P300, P400 or P500. Online subscribers may reload their own prepaid account or their friends and families' accounts. All AutoloadMAX transactions done online will be charged to the subscriber's designated Bancnet account.

And that's not all! From Sept. 10 to Nov. 18, ten Motorola E398 surround sound mobile phones will be given away to lucky online reloaders. Each successful reload via http://autoload.yehey.com entitles a subscriber to one raffle coupon. Three (3) draws will be held during the promo period. There is no limit to the number of raffle entries per subscriber, and all non-winning entries will be entered in the succeeding draws. Winning subscribers will be notified via email.

Online reloading is a valuable addition to the wealth of resources available in the World Wide Web. With Globe Handyphone, reloading prepaid credits is just a mouse click away! So what are you waiting for? Log on to http://autoload.yehey.com and reload now!



GLOBE'S head of reload services Cindy Salaya and Yehey! chief operating officer Kevin Khoe seals the partnership with a handshake.

WEST CONTACT OPENS STATE-OF-THE-ART CALL CENTER

West Contact Services recently inaugurated its state-of-the-art office and call center at Export Bank Building at the corner of Pasong Tamo Ext. and Gil Puyat Avenue. Guest of honor includes President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Department of Trade and Industry Secretary Cesar Purisima. Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay congratulated the officers and staff of West Contact Services Inc in his message. He also cited Makati City to have the most developed telecommunications infrastructure in the country with over 198,000 land-based telephone subscribers.

Design guru to brief exhibitors in RP's international furniture show

WORLD-renowned Filipino lifestyle designer PJ Aranador will conduct a design briefing at 1 p.m. on Tuesday (Sept. 28) at the Astoria Plaza, Escriva Drive (formerly Amber Avenue), Ortigas Business District, Pasig City.

Aranador's briefing is intended for the exhibitors in the much-awaited Philippine International Furniture Show (PIFS), which is slated at the World Trade Center Metro Manila and the Philippine Trade Training Center from Feb. 28 to March 3, 2005.

The topics are PIFS 2005 design theme directions, theme pavilion and special settings, and product development and design.

Having worked as a designer, stylist and consultant in almost all the continents around the world, Aranador has revolutionized the global acceptance of Filipinos as among the most sought after design professionals in the international community. Aranador, whose field of expertise ranges from fashion to home objects and design-led crafts, is also the PIFS design director and show curator. He will present the core creative matrix for PIFS 2005.

This early, though, close to 100 furniture firms from all over the Philippines have confirmed their participation, leaving only 18 percent of the exhibit space at the World Trade Center available. Likewise, early advertising and promotions were conducted in Western and Eastern Europe, Middle East, and the United States to attract big foreign buyers.

Organized by the Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines (CFIP), PIFS has been attracting foreign buyers from all over the world and generating millions of dollars in booked orders and under negotiation.

More information can be obtained from the CFIP (tel. 6312834, fax 6312977, or email info@cfipnet.com).

Seminar Workshop on
"LET'S TALK GIRL"
A symposium on proper feminine hygiene
August to September 2004

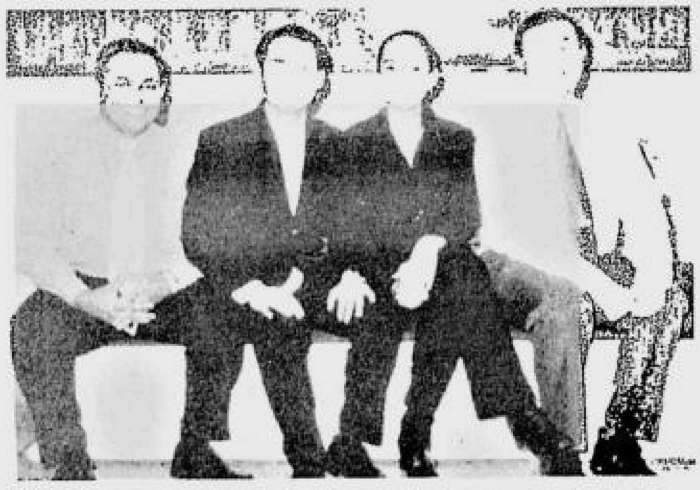
'LET'S TALK GIRL' CAMPUS TOUR

More then 50,000 female high school students in more than 40 schools in Metro Manila attended 'Let's Talk Girl', a symposium on proper feminine hygiene kicked-off during August of this year by pH Care feminine wash. The event which was presented by the country's no. 1 feminine wash, pH Care, was well received in different public and private schools in Metro Manila. The symposium that was spearheaded by the pH Care marketing team and different medical experts aimed to educate young students on proper feminine care practices. After the lecture, the students were given free sachets of pH Care feminine wash along with educational materials on feminine hygiene. Freebies were also given away as prizes and as a token of appreciation to both the students and school administrators. If you want your school to be the next stop of 'Let's Talk Girl' you can call Ad Staunch Communication Network at and look for Rita Boquiron at 550-1732.

EXPORT A INDUSTRY BANK

EXPORT AND INDUSTRY BANK SIGN AGREEMENT WITH BAYANTEL

Export and Industry Bank and Bayan Telecommunications (BayanTel) recently signed a contract for BayanTel's provisioning of domestic frame relay. With the agreement, BayanTel provides Exportbank with the required connectivity to its branches at a cost-effective manner through a thorough study of the locations and infrastructure requirement. Present during the contract signing were (from left): BayanTel director for relationship markets Hans Voltaire Bayaborda, Exportbank senior manager Michael Asiddao, Exportbank chief information officer Josemaria Valdes, BayanTel vice president for corporate and business markets Junie Pama, and Exportbank first vice president Danilo Camacho



DI TEAM NOW IN RP TO SHARE SUCCESS FORMULA

Photo shows Larry Tan (2nd from left), Asia's business start-up guru and coach, and the co-founder of Dreams Inspiration (DI) team from Singapore, a group of self-made entrepreneurs out to inspire and coach individuals to get ahead financially, spiritually and mentally. Tan and his group are currently in the Philippines to share their success formula, a proven business-coaching system, focused on prospering through collaboration and not on competition. They have been sharing their business system here in the Philippines with entrepreneurial aspirants, for the past few months. Shown in photo with Tan are (from left): Rafi M, Nancy Samot and Robin Tan of the Dreams Inspiration team here in the Philippines. For further information on Dreams Inspiration's latest 'AIR Entrepreneurship', 'Science of Prosperity' and 'Health Entrepreneur, Wealthy Entrepreneur' programs, log on to http://sop.dreamsinspiration.com or call 0916-488-8725.

BITS Clips

Be a La Salle Brother

DE LA Salle University-Manila Brothers' Community is holding a five-day live-in program from Sept. 29 to Oct. 3. The live-in program is an opportunity for participants to know the community and the Brothers better through personal experience of the life they live. The participants will also be exposed in the daily activities of the Brothers such as in prayers, work and other social activities. The program is open to male undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and co-academic personnel. Those interested may email sockievi@yahoo.com or fscaspirants@yahoo.com or text 0917-8928799.

Catering business seminar

A MANAGING a Catering Business Seminar-Workshop will be held on Sept. 29 to Oct. 7 (excluding weekends), from 12 to 5 p.m., at Ipanema Bar & Restaurant, 2nd Level Eastwood City Walk, Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City. Reservations are on a first-come-first-served basis at tel. no. 687-1787 or 0916-8226053. Seminar fee is P5,000 per participant inclusive of materials and manual.

39 ways to close more sales

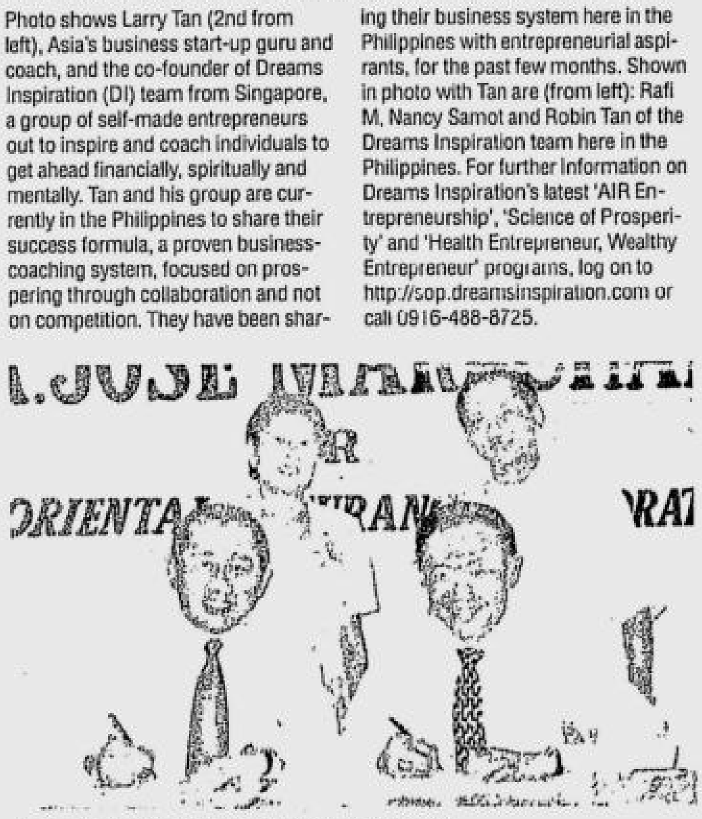
A MUST for every salesperson, learn the 39 special techniques that top producers use to close more sales. The seminar is slated on Sept. 29, from 1 to 5 p.m. at Holiday Inn Galleria Manila (formerly Galleria Suite). Resource lecturer is Rene Espinosa, managing director of PMI. This seminar is sponsored by Porter and Milas Inc. For more information/reservation, call Mercy at 638-7719-20.

Chowking promo

CHOWKING is giving away mini mooncakes today to lucky customers in celebration of the Mid-Autumn Festival. Any food purchase entitles the customer for a chance to pick a prize.

'Office Savers' promo

AUTOMATIC Centre and Sogo Home & Office Center, bring you the best finds in the world of state-of-the-art technologies through its "Office Savers" promo . Available all this month, Office Savers is comprised of multiple treats such as free Seattle's Best gift certificates, big discounts and the ultimate 0 percent offer. Cool treats will be given right away for every purchase of office items available in the store. Moreover, shoppers will also have options to choose their favorite audio-video appliances, electronics and houseware varieties. Visit the nearest Automatic Centre and Sogo Home & Office Center now. For details call 912-6604 or 632-0673.



JOSE MARI CHAN ENDORSES OAC

Jose Mari Chan, the official company endorser of Oriental Assurance Corp (OAC), signs the contract anew with Domingo Cotoco, OAC president. OAC believes that Chan's achievements in music, as well as, in business, fit OAC's dependability and stability as a non-life insurance provider in the country. Witnessing the event held at OAC Headquarters in Ortigas Center last July 30, were (standing at the back): Luz Cotoco, OAC EVP and Jun Cotoco, VP for marketing.

STRENGTHENING DR. P'S NO. 1 POSITION IN THE MARKET

Strengthening Dr. P Adult Diapers' No. 1 position in the market, Push Girls in merchandising areas of leading supermarkets personally share the benefits of Dr. P with their customers by highlighting on its unique features; a super absorbent pad with antibiosis and deodorization that kills harmful bacteria while neutralizing unpleasant odors and affordability The approach encourages open lines between Dr. P and its customers. Dr. P adult diapers come in different variants: Basic for light incontinence, Standard for moderate incontinence, and Premium for heavy incontinence. Exclusively distributed in the Philippines by East Valley Enterprises Inc, Dr. P adult diapers are available at all leading supermarkets, groceries, and drug stores.

ASIACO OPENS ITS 53RD OUTLET

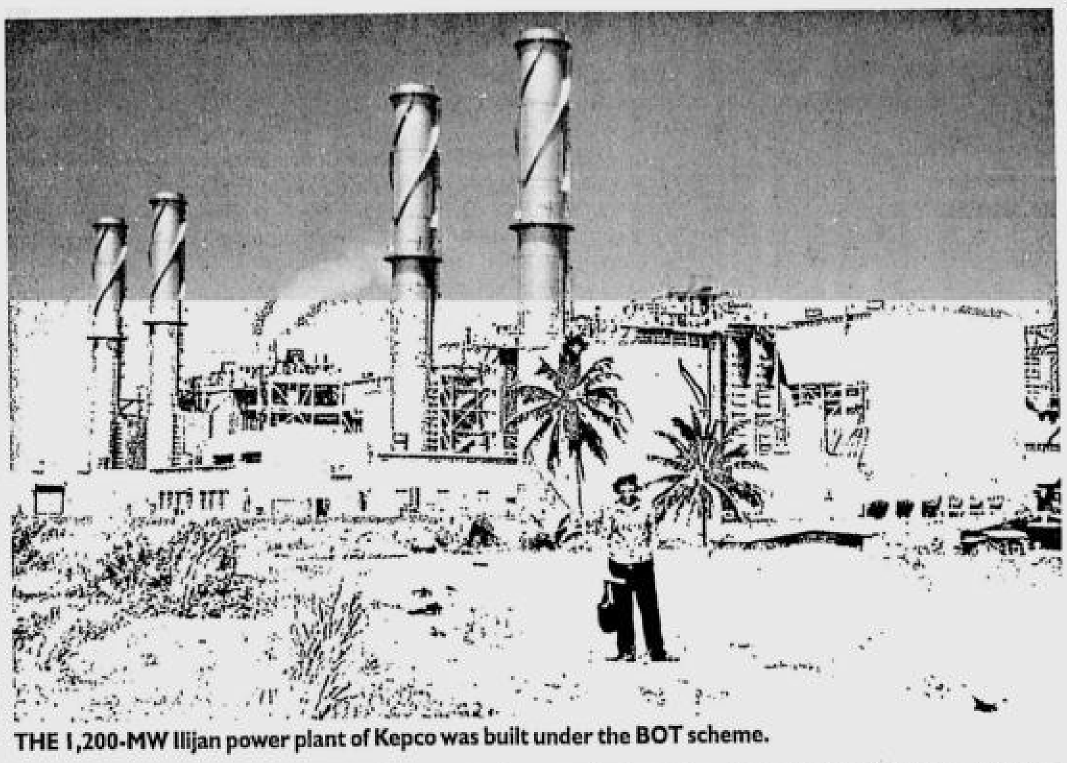
In line with its objective of making its products easily available to its clientele, Asiaco Enterprises International recently opened its newest branch at the Ortigas Home Depot. The company boasts its best-sellers such as the stackable organizers, stainless steel pullout wire baskets, closet accessories, aluminum and stainless steel modular cabinets and wall-mounted kitchen accessories. The opening was graced by (from left) Sally Rodriguez, Asiaco assistant outlet sales supervisor for Metro Manila; Kenneth Tung, Ortigas Home Depot general manager; and Marites Abasta, Asiaco outlet sales supervisor. Asiaco offers free technical advice through their hotline 744-1556 or text 0920-9010936

Napocor's huge debt, colossal losses

By Edgardo M. Del Fonso

(First of a series)

COMMENTARY


THE 1,200-MW Ilijan power plant of Kepco was built under the BOT scheme.

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. is once again in the eye of the storm for the umpteenth time in its checkered history. This time the condemnation is raining down hard on Napocor for its huge losses, colossal debt and rising tariff.

Accusations are coming in torrent, as if there is brisk demand for them: Napocor is run by incompetent, corrupt people who brought financial ruin to the company and who should therefore have their salaries cut, discharged from service, or (hopefully with tongue in cheek) electrocuted. Napocor itself should be placed under closer supervision, closed down, or (again hopefully with tongue in cheek) bombed out of existence.

Napocor executives and other officials are shuttling between the two houses of Congress to explain its losses in endless hearings before a confusing array of committees, all ostensibly in aid of legislation.

No one can begrudge Congress for exercising its right to conduct inquiries to address pressing issues of national concern, curb abuses of the executive department, or to craft better laws. Any man-made problem should be susceptible to solution through a dispassionate exchange of views and perspectives in good faith among reasonable men and women. If that is what hearings are really after.

The problem with these hearings is that they are less an effort to uncover the truth or to understand the fundamental reasons behind a given problem, than a rush to judgment to pin the blame on some hapless public officials, past or present, for a perceived wrong. We see self-absorbed legislators fulminating with self-righteous, if somewhat self-conscious, indignation and subjecting hapless witnesses to public ridicule with not even the slightest pretense at elementary courtesy or civility. Especially while TV cameras are rolling.

Public ridicule

The atmosphere at these hearings is at once accusatory, and one seeing the tableau from the sidelines could not help feeling that a lynching party is at work. The objective seems to be to unsettle, even to demean the witnesses from the start to soften them up for the inquisition to follow. One such hearing started with the witnesses, all government officials, being asked to state one by one, under oath and the glare of TV cameras, their total salaries and allowances, as if to prove they are making unconscionable salaries. All they got was the revelation that the president and chief executive officer of the biggest Philippine corporation in sales and assets is taking home no more than a mid-level manager in a mid-sized private company.

And yet when the hearings started in earnest, the witnesses never got the chance to discuss fully the ostensible reason for the hearing, which was to get to the bottom of Napocor's losses and level of debt. Committee members took turns pummeling the witnesses with questions as if there's some kind of contest to find out who could bring maximum discomfort to the witnesses. So the hearing ended without resolving anything, other than to hold the witnesses to public ridicule.

Some legislators have solemnly intoned that Napocor should be closed down because of its debt and its losses. But the debt and losses are just symptoms of the underlying problems. Closing Napocor or capping its debt will remove the symptoms, perhaps, but the underlying problems remain. The government still has to run the power plants until they are privatized, and its debt, all guaranteed by the national government, still has to be paid. So a debt cap or Napocor's closure will not bring any lasting solution.

The bald fact is that Napocor has been used as a vehicle to provide hidden subsidies for the consumers. Napocor was tasked to build power plants entirely on borrowed money, then forced to sell electricity below cost. Out of necessity, it incurred huge debts - almost entirely in foreign currency—to finance its expansion. That is not necessarily a bad thing if Napocor can sell power for more than what it takes to produce it. But Napocor has been unable to obtain a tariff structure that will fully cover its costs. That is bad enough, because it would need to borrow yet again to pay maturing loans and interest. But if the peso also depreciates against foreign currencies, as it continues to, the effect is catastrophic.

Flawed policies, priorities

It is now time to pony up for those subsidies. It is not Roger Murga's fault as Napocor president, or of those before him, that Napocor went on a building and borrowing spree but was prevented from collecting a decent tariff from its customers. The losses and the debt are the consequence mainly of past legislation; the flawed policies and priorities, actions or inaction of different administrations, and regulatory decisions that went against Napocor.

They had said Roger Murga should be fired as Napocor president for presiding over this wretched state of affairs. If Michael the Archangel were running Napocor, they also would be asking for his head (or his wings) in no time at all. But to expect anyone to overcome these problems is a little like sending Roger out with another Light Brigade to walk-trot-march against a horseshoe of massed artillery, cavalry and infantry, and expecting him to rout the enemy. A multi-awarded outstanding UP alumnus, and with a distinguished career in the private sector behind him, he can be as good as anyone in running any corporation. But not with the impossible odds he, like Lord Cardigan of Balaclava, had faced.

This paper is intended to discuss the dimensions of Napocor's financial problems and to understand how it got to where it is now. In the process, it will attempt to address the putative reasons for Napocor's financial distress, and bring to light other forces and developments that have had a major impact on the state company but which have not been acknowledged in all the debates so far.

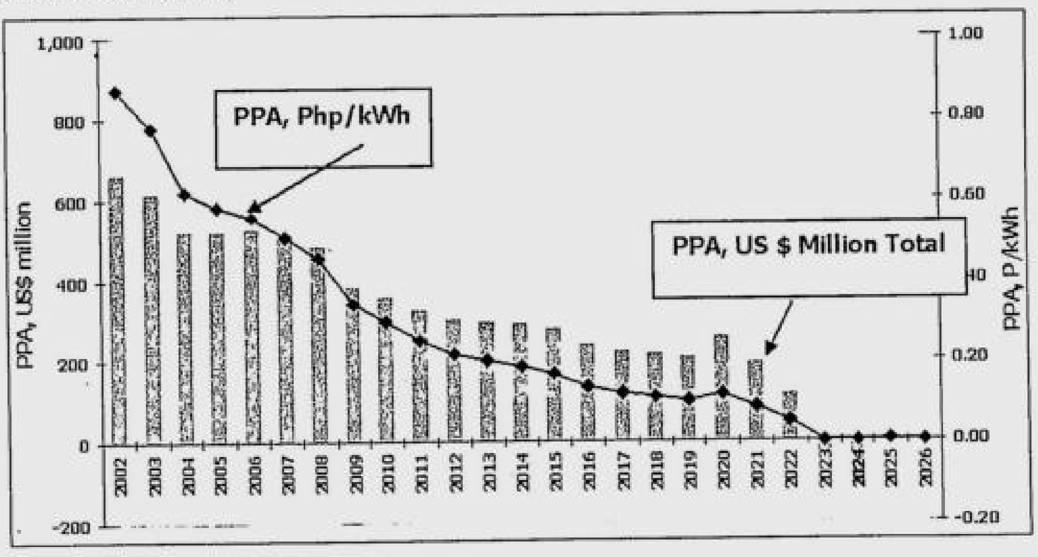
First, an understanding of the size and reasons for Napocor's 2003 losses is useful in providing context. The consolidated loss of Napocor and National Transmission Co.—Transco is still officially part of Napocor—is P117 billion: P113 billion for Napocor, P4 billion for Transco. (Transco actually lost money due to its proportionate share in the interest and foreign exchange losses).

Interests, forex losses

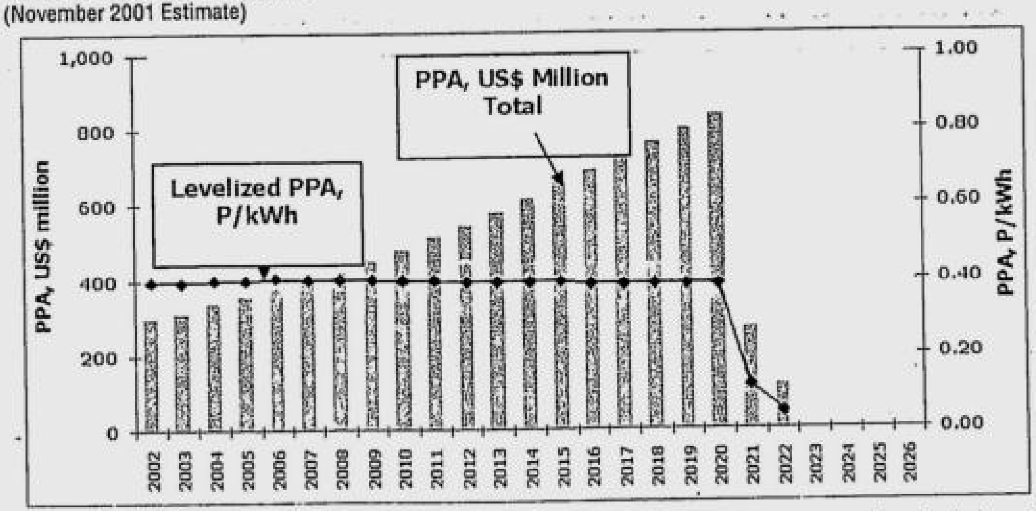
Napocor's other expenses, coincidentally, also reached P117 billion, consisting mostly of interest and foreign exchange losses. One could argue that if not for these other expenses, Napocor would have broken even in 2003. Of these other expenses, P78 billion—or two-thirds of the losses - is directly linked to a bookkeeping change. Until 2002 forex losses on loans and IPP obligations could be spread out over the remaining life of the underlying loans or contracts, some of which stretch as far out as 2028. Indeed, that is exactly how the obligations will be discharged. But in a major swing of the pendulum towards obsessive conservatism, the accounting profession decreed through Statement of Financial Accounting Standards 8A that companies should take the hit on forex losses immediately and in full. Thus, an innocuous-sounding guideline magnified Napocor's losses by three times, compared to what it would have reported under previous accounting fiat. Note that the P78 billion is a translation loss payable over a period of time, not an out-of-pocket cost payable this year or next. A lot of people have made a lot of noise and issued dire predictions on the assumption that the P78 billion is a recurring charge that calls for immediate cash payment.

Of all the lament over Napocor's parlous financial condition, none has attracted more blame than the President's decision in May 2002 to cap the Purchased Power Cost at P0.40 per kilowatt hour. Citing it as a concession to populist sentiment, critics claim that this decision is the single largest blow to Napocor's viability, costing the utility almost P30 billion yearly in lost revenue.

PURCHASED POWER ADJUSTMENT
(November 2001 Estimate)



LEVELIZED POWER ADJUSTMENT
(November 2001 Estimate)



There are three things wrong with the analysis and the conclusions that flowed from this:

- The P0.85/kWh under-recovery was only for Luzon. The PPA per kWh in May 2002: P1.25 for Luzon, P0.79 for the Visayas and P0.54 for Mindanao. The average for the Philippines was P1.09. With a cap of P0.40, the under-recovery was therefore P0.69, and not P0.85 as has been generally believed.
- In October 2002 the ERC unbundled generation rates, as required by law. The total generation rate Napocor could charge its customers remained the same, but the classification of charges was changed. Now there are three components: Fuel, Purchased Power Cost or PPC, and basic charge. The cost of the IPP contracts was split between PPC—the amount subject to the Presidential cap—and amortization of capacity fees, classified under basic charge. Because PPC is now lower, then necessarily the un-recovered amount would also decline. With the cap remaining at P0.40, the under-recovery was reduced further from P0.69 in May 2002 to an average of P0.34 through July 2004. Of the P0.34, Napocor has recovered P0.11 by virtue of subsequent ERC rulings, leaving just P0.23 per kilowatt hour, equivalent to P16 billion, as the amount that has remained unrecovered from the May 2002 decision. That is a long way from the P60 billion that some critics are claiming.
- The third reason why the predictions about the impact of the PPA cap will not happen is that the absolute level of the PPA will decline in due course, as some of the more expensive oil-fired plants are retired from service. Eight IPPs with a total capacity of 756 MW have expired, and six more with 577 MW of capacity will terminate by 2008. Savings from the re-negotiation of IPP contracts will also help reduce the overall amount of the PPA. These reductions, coupled with the increase in volume of sales over time, will bring the PPA down sharply from its peak in 2002. By 2006, the unadjusted PPA will be at P0.35 per kWh, below the P0.40 cap.

Not completely lost

What all these say is that the sound and fury over the President's decision to cap the PPA is all for nothing. Of Napocor's loss in 2003 of P117 billion, P8 billion, or less than 7 percent, was due to the PPA cap, and even that will eventually be collected. Critics will have to bark up another tree.

There are two more points in relation to the President's decision to cap the PPA. Far from being a knee-jerk reaction to the public's clamor for lower power rates, the underlying analytical basis for capping the PPA came from the Napocor privatization plan, prepared by PSALM in conjunction with NM Rothschilds, a respected international investment bank. PSALM submitted the privatization plan to the Joint Congressional Power Commission in November 2001, months before the PPA decision.

DEL FONSO

The main body of the privatization plan described the proposed modality, sequence, timing and valuation in selling the assets of Napocor and Transco. It devoted a section on IPP liability management, a function that PSALM assumed under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, or Epira. What the President ordered was precisely what PSALM suggested, except for the timing. PSALM proposed to "levelize" the PPA—i.e., flatten it out at a constant amount over a period of time, rather than charge it as and when incurred. Unadjusted, the PPA would follow a downward slope from P0.88 per kWh in 2002 to zero in 2022. Instead of imposing a high PPA in the early years, Napocor would bill consumers a constant nominal amount over a period of time and thereby give consumers relief in the medium term. The estimate prepared at the time showed that a uniform PPA of P0.40 per kwh over a 20-year period would equate with the unadjusted PPA. The plan, however, was contingent on the ERC's approval to include a financing cost element in the PPA since Napocor could not afford to absorb the interest on additional borrowings needed to finance the PPA deferral.

A graphic presentation of this scheme is shown in the charts below. The first chart shows the annual PPA in US dollars (in bars) and the corresponding PPA per kWh. The second shows the PPA at a constant P0.40 per kWh until it drops in later years. It also shows the absolute amount of the PPA in US dollars corresponding to the per-kWh PPA.

Clamor for lower PPA

The privatization plan, including the said PPA scheme, was discussed extensively in early 2002 with the Joint Congressional Power Commission, the committees on energy of both the House and the Senate, rating agencies such as Moody's and Fitch and creditors such as the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank before it was eventually endorsed by the JCPC and approved by the President on Oct. 4, 2002.

The President's decision was therefore based on studies that showed Napocor can support a "levelized" PPA of P0.40 per kWh, assuming ERC would allow recovery of the financing cost. Events did not exactly conform to plan, since it was put into place before NPC could obtain explicit authority from ERC.

Now a word on the timing. At the time of the President's decision, there was a loud clamor from consumers, cause-oriented groups and the media to reduce the PPA. Meralco's IPPs were all operational by then, and the combined PPA from Meralco and Napocor was running at over P4.00 per kWh.

Congress took note of the clamor, and soon competing bills were filed trying to outdo one another in driving down the PPA. House Bill No. 4741 filed by the energy committee would exempt about 60 percent of residential customers from the PPA, and the rest would enjoy a moratorium of three to four years before they pay a centavo of PPA (to Napocor: Meralco will continue to charge its PPC in its franchise area). Under Senate Bill 2140 filed by 14 senators (eight of whom are still in office), 77 percent of residential customers would either enjoy total exemption or a 50 percent discount while all others would enjoy three years of PPA-free electricity. An amendment proposed by an opposition senator would either exempt or provide discounts to 94 percent of all residential customers, for the others, the freeze stays for three years. Mercifully, all these bills would allow Napocor to recover the related financing cost, but it still would have to raise as much as P420 billion in incremental loans. Because of the sentiment of the times, it was a foregone conclusion that Congress would pass one of those bills.

The President's move in May 2002 therefore pre-empted the snowballing move to legislate a lower PPA. That action served several purposes: it silenced the uproar over high power rates, kept the PPA at a reasonable and affordable level, and saved Napocor from having to borrow several hundred billion pesos more.

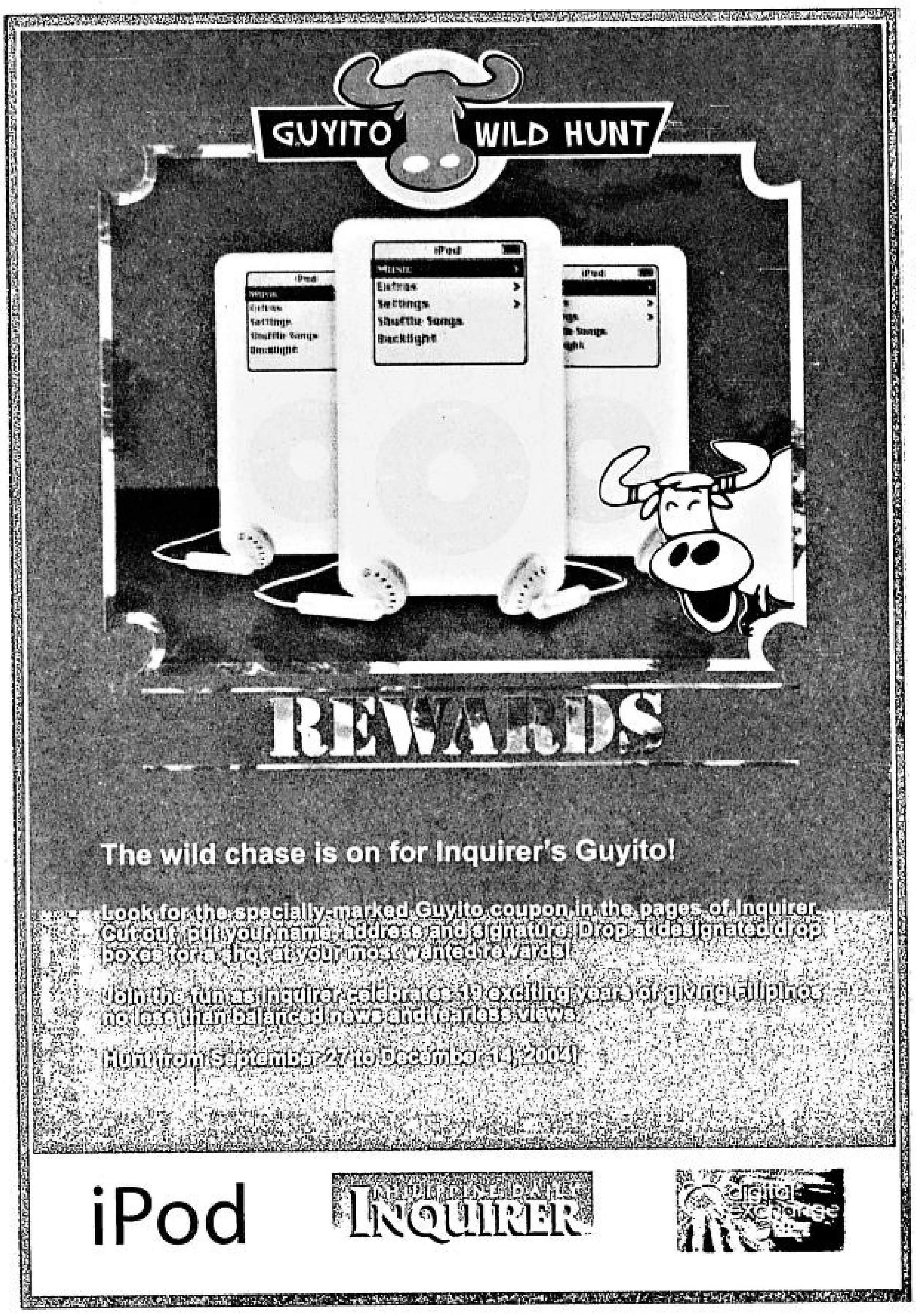
It is interesting that back then, legislators were tripping over one another trying to claim paternity to an idea that would be perceived as pro-poor. As the decision on the PPA cap has become an orphan among legislators, not one of them—including those who sponsored the various PPA bills—has stood up to defend or even agree with the President's decision. Some of those who sponsored bills with more generous give-aways are among the most vocal in criticizing the President on this issue.

As a final note on this subject, the "levelized" PPA was estimated in 2001 at P0.40 per kWh over 20 years. An update prepared by PSALM in April 2004 shows the "levelized" PPA will now be P0.25 per kWh in 18 years. In the end, therefore, a lot of trees died and gallons of ink spilled over a non-issue.

Deal with Meralco

Another reason mistakenly cited for Napocor's loss is the failure of Meralco to abide by the terms of its 10-year supply agreement with Napocor. As its own IPPs became operational, Meralco began to cut its purchase of power from Napocor below the contracted level. Napocor continued to bill Meralco for the full volume but Meralco refused to pay up, invoking various reasons as the basis for its action. Napocor and Meralco eventually agreed on a compromise agreement to settle the dispute, and the agreement is now pending for the approval of the ERC. Until the matter is finally resolved Napocor continues to accrue revenues from Meralco as if the 10-year contract is still operative, and so has not booked any loss arising from the Napocor-Meralco agreement. Thus, Meralco's refusal to honor the contract has not had an impact on Napocor's profitability. It has, however, added to Napocor's financing burden as its receivables from Meralco keep piling up pending eventual settlement. *(To be continued)*

(The author is the former president of Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp.)



The wild chase is on for Inquirer's Guyito!

Look for the specially-marked Guyito coupon in the pages of Inquirer. Cut out, put your name, address and signature. Drop at designated drop boxes for a shot at your most wanted rewards!

Join the fun as Inquirer celebrates 19 exciting years of giving Filipinos no less than balanced news and fearless views.

Hunt from September 27 to December 14, 2004!

iPod PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER digital exchange

Smart, Sun Cellular ordered to settle row

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission has directed Smart Communications Inc. and Sun Cellular of Digitel Telecommunications Philippines Inc. to immediately resolve their interconnection dispute so as not to affect their services to subscribers.

Smart and Sun Cellular were locked in disagreement over interconnection fees, according to sources.

The NTC said it was worried that Smart would disconnect from Digitel's wireless and landline operations and has ordered the country's biggest mobile firm not to disrupt its services with the Gokongwei telecom firm.

Smart had 16.1 million subscribers as of end-June while Sun Cellular said it had about 700,000 customers.

Interconnection is crucial especially for smaller players like Sun Cellular because it would have a hard time attractive subscribers if its network could not hook up with the bigger players.

Smart had a similar problem with Globe when the former was just starting to offer the GSM wireless service and the Ayala-controlled firm already had a critical mass of subscribers. Smart, a subsidiary of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., retaliated through its parent firm by refusing to hook up with Globe.

The issue blew up and then President Estrada had to intercede to resolve the interconnection dispute.

"The Commission enjoins the parties from taking any unilateral action that would result in the disconnection or disruption of interconnection between their respective networks that may affect service," the NTC said in its order dated Sept. 17 to Smart and Sun Cellular.

Sources said Smart was charging Digitel more than P85 million in interconnection fees, but Digitel had paid only P66 million based on reduced domestic access charges.

The interconnection fees cover the traffic from Digitel's fixed-line to Smart, Smart to Digitel fixed-line, Sun Cellular to Smart and Smart to Sun Cellular.

GUYITO WILD HUNT
NAME ____________
ADDRESS ____________
____
CONTACT NO. ____________
SIGNATURE ____________
Where did you buy this copy? Please check
☐ News stand/Newsboy ☐ Subscription

Promo Period: Sept. 27- Dec. 14, 2004
Deadline of Entries:
Monthly Draws: October 17 and Nov. 17, 2004
Grand Draw: Dec. 14, 2004
Draw Dates:
Monthly Draw: October 22 and Nov. 22, 2004
Grand Draw: Dec. 21, 2004

See posters and print ads for details.
Per DTI Permit No. 2147, series of 2004

Ad valorem . . .

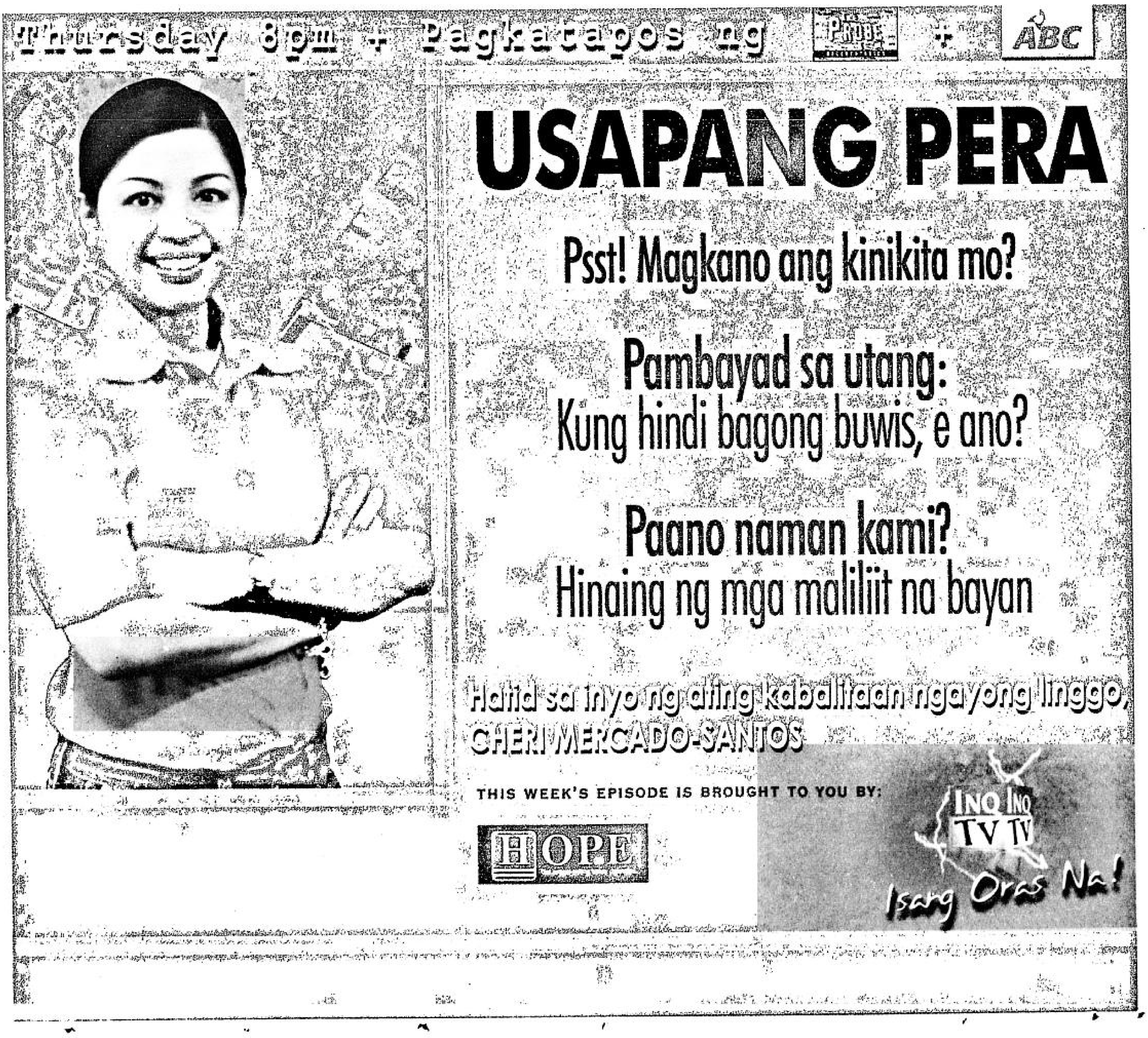
From page B1

"If we will be using the retail prices, how will the tax be collected, considering the many retailers and vendors we have," the finance official asked. The source said the bills currently filed in Congress seeking the return to ad valorem do not have a provision stating how and from whom the government will collect the excise taxes when the retail price is used as a basis.

Under the DOF's proposal, the specific system of taxation would be retained, but the tax rates would be increased by 30.1 percent to reflect the inflation rate from 1997 to 2003. The DOF's proposal states the following change in tax rates:

- from P1.12 to P1.46 per pack for cigarettes that cost below P5 per pack;
- from P5.60 to P7.28 per pack for those that cost between P5 and P6.50;
- from P8.96 to P11.66 per pack for cigarettes costing between P6.51 and P10;
- from P13.44 to P17.48 per pack for cigarettes costing above P10.

The DOF's version of the bill also states that the rates will be automatically increased every two years to factor in inflation.



Thursday 8pm + Pagkatapos ng PROBE + ABC

USAPANG PERA

Psst! Magkano ang kinikita mo?

Pambayad sa utang:
Kung hindi bagong buwis, e ano?

Paano naman kami?
Hinaing ng mga maliliit na bayan

Hatid sa inyo ng ating kabalitaan ngayong linggo,
CHERI MERCADO-SANTOS

THIS WEEK'S EPISODE IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
HOPE

INQ INQ TV TV
Isang Oras Na!

Mining sector lures . . .

From page B1

leased last month that the general view for the Philippines was "uncertain" due to political uncertainties and peace and order problems.

Even then, Australian mining giant Lafayette Mining Ltd.'s local unit has committed to develop a project in Rapu-rapu Island off the Bicol Peninsula. The joint venture with a local firm is expected to produce copper, gold, silver and zinc valued at $350 million over the initial six years.

According to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, a revitalized local mining industry could generate as much as $6.2 billion in foreign investments from new large scale metallic mining and mineral exploration projects over the next six years.

Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima had listed the mining sector as one of the seven priority areas for investment promotion, noting that the country is rich in mineral resources.

Purisima said such resources were estimated to be worth $964.7 billion but would remain to be just potential if not developed.

To date, 22 large-scale metallic projects worth $6.1 billion and 25 exploration projects worth $62 million are pending with the mining bureau.

These include three nickel projects worth P1 billion each and all planned to start in 2009. The proponents are Nonoc Processing Corp., Asiaticus Pujada and Aglubang Mining Corp.

Other mining projects are Silangan Mindanao Mining Corp.'s P500-million copper project due in 2009; Benguet Corp.'s P532-million copper-gold project that is expected to be on stream in 2007; Climax Arimco Mining Corp.'s P63-million copper-gold project for 2006, and Lepanto Consolidated Mining's P80-million gold project for 2004.

Oil prices near record, hurt stocks

SINGAPORE—Asian stocks slid on Monday as crude oil prices closed in on a record near $50 a barrel.

Also, investors in Japan sold bank and brokerage shares amid concern that Japan's economic recovery could stall.

Crude oil traded as high as $49.36 a barrel, up 48 cents on the day and just off a record of $49.40 set on Aug. 20, as violence in Saudi Arabia, Nigeria and Iraq heightened global supply risks.

Oil prices jumped amid reports of new violence in Iraq and after security forces in Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, clashed with suspected militants in the capital Riyadh on Sunday following the shooting death of a Frenchman in the Saudi Red Sea city of Jeddah.

Meanwhile, Nigerian rebels fighting troops in Africa's top oil exporter threatened to extend their uprising across the whole of the country's oil-producing southern delta.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell said insurgency was worsening in Iraq, where rebels have repeatedly targeted the country's oil infrastructure.

Japanese stocks extended losses for a seventh straight session—the longest losing streak since December 2002—with the Nikkei index closing down 0.3 percent at 10,859.32.

Japan's "big four" banks fell and Nomura Holdings 8604, the country's biggest brokerage, hit its lowest level since June 2003, after a government survey showed big Japanese firms are more cautious about business conditions in the coming months.

The so-called business survey index produced a forecast of 9.5 for the October-December quarter compared with 12.9 in the previous survey released in June.

The benchmark 10-year Japanese government bond yield fell below 1.4 percent for the first time in six months on a view that economic growth was slowing.

On Friday, the Bank of Japan releases its quarterly "tankan" business confidence survey index, and economists polled by Reuters expect it to show sentiment may have peaked.

The dollar was little changed against the yen as a Japanese government cabinet reshuffle left the economic portfolios unchanged.

The MSCI index of Asian share markets outside Japan fell 0.5 percent, led by its technology component, which dropped 0.9 percent.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index shed 1.2 percent, with shares of property firms extending losses amid worries of rising interest rates.

Taiwan's benchmark index fell 0.7 percent, retreating for a third session after hitting a 15-week closing high last week.

Singapore's Straits Times Index was the sole major Asian market with gains, rising 0.2 percent.

Australia's benchmark S&P/ASX 200 index edged 0.1 percent lower.

The dollar bought 110.72 yen at 0626 GMT, from 110.62 in late New York trade on Friday. The euro fetched $1.2275 from $1.2276.

Reuters

CATCH THE NEXT BULL RUN

The Philippine Index Fund (PIF) proves to be the best bet investing in Philippine equities delivering a phenomenal return of 20.63% (YTD absolute as of September 9, 2004), outperforming all other equity mutual fund returns posting an average return 14.43%.

The BPI Asset Management and Trust Group (BPI AMTG) is the fund manager of PIF, the country's first and only index tracker fund. Its aim is to provide an alternative for equity investors who believe in the potential of the domestic equities market at the same time enjoying risk diversity as well as low entry costs. Designed to mimic the movements of the PHISIX (Philippine Stock Exchange Composite Index), PIF has been successful in tracking the returns of the index while taking advantage of the bottoming out of the market in the 4th quarter of 2002, translating to an impressive 42.2% ROI for 2003.

In a press briefing last July 2004, BPI AMTG Head SVP Adelbert A. Legasto, declared their optimism in the market and projected the PHISIX to initially target the 1700 psychological level heading towards the 1900 level. As of September 9, 2004, the index has indeed surpassed the initial targeted level, closing at 1,739. Coupled by the stronger confidence of foreign fund managers validated by net foreign buying of P1.3B for the month of September alone as well as the increased daily value turn-over of P797M (net of crosses), the index is moving on to challenge the 1900 level, a task that does not only seem to be a possibility but more of an inevitability. This target provides investors an initial upside potential of at least 9% in the coming few months.

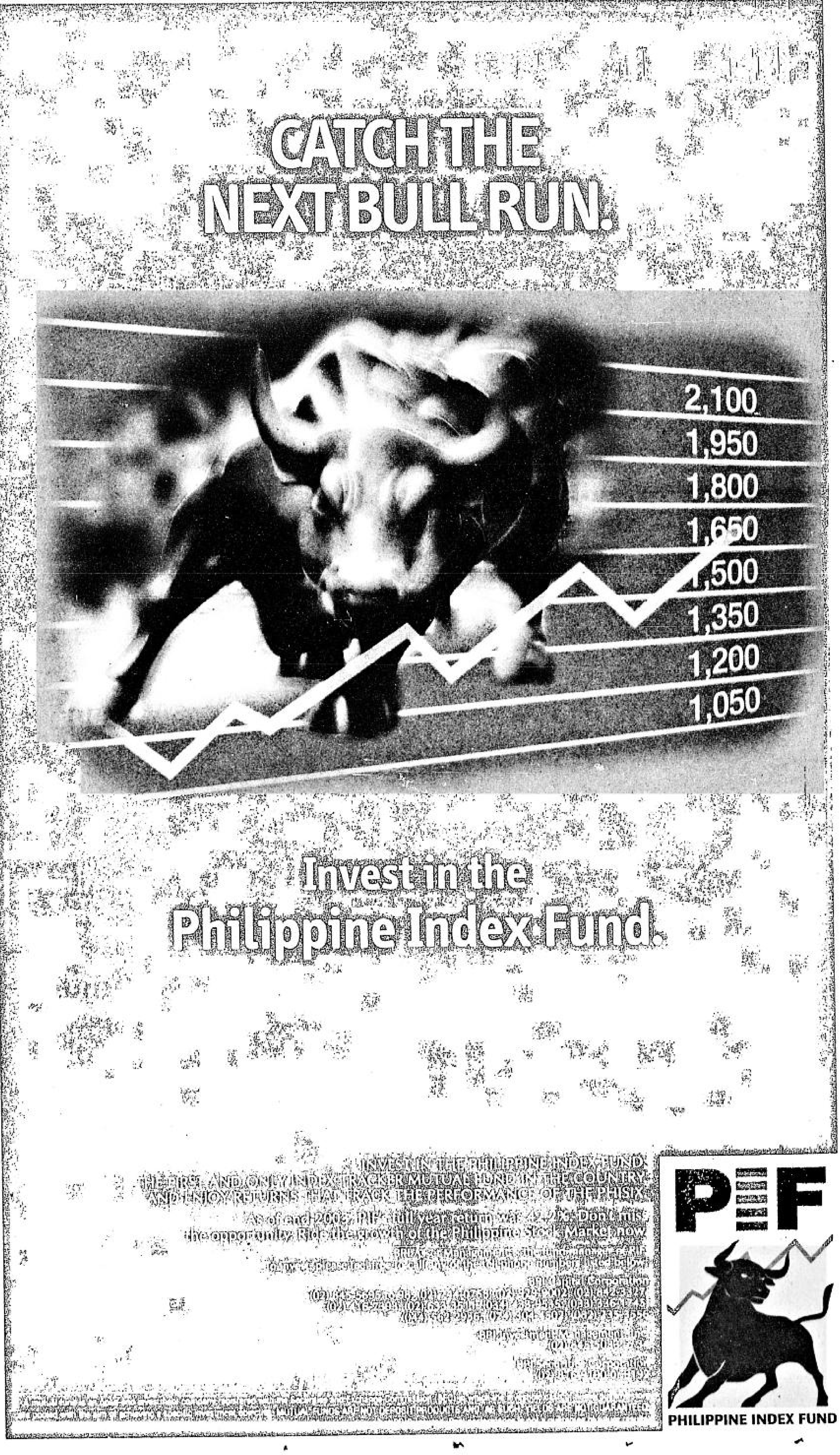
Is it too late to enter the market? The answer is no. First, although investors continue to accumulate stocks with strong fundamentals on 2nd semester good earnings expectations, investment experts are expecting periodic market corrections. These normal occurrences seen after continuous run-ups in the market afford an accumulation window for investors. Second, in the medium and long-term views, the PHISIX remains to have a large upside, the sooner the entry the bigger the return potential.

Given the generally bullish market outlook, now is the time to ride the stock market and take advantage of its full upside potential. One effective way to do this is to invest in an index-tracker fund such as the Philippine Index Fund or PIF. With a minimum investment of only P50,000 during the initial offer period, investors are effectively investing in a diversified portfolio of 33 stocks comprising the PHISIX, with the lowest fees and commissions compared with investing in PHISIX stocks on their own and without the hassle of daily individual stock monitoring.

The low minimum initial investment amount is expected to tap a larger retail market of longterm equity investors while at the same time creating greater awareness on equity investing among small individual investors.

Don't get left behind, catch the next bull run.

ADVT



INVEST IN THE PHILIPPINE INDEX FUND: THE FIRST AND ONLY INDEX TRACKER MUTUAL FUND IN THE COUNTRY AND ENJOY RETURNS THAT TRACK THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PHISIX

As of end 2003, PIF full year return was 42.2%. Don't miss the opportunity. Ride the growth of the Philippine Stock Market now

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON AUDIT
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
REGIONS 3 AND 4
FY 2003
In Thousand Pesos

	Class	Balance Sheet			Statement of Income and Expenses									% of Net Income to Total Income
		Total Assets	Total Liabilities	Total Equity	Total Income	Rank		Total Expenses	Rank		Net Income	Rank		
						1	2		1	2		1	2	
REGION 3		8,065,924	2,646,905	5,419,020	6,675,526			5,785,555			889,971			
Aurora		392,899	78,265	314,335	302,475		7	257,267		7	45,207		7	
Baler	4	38,493	13,818	24,675	33,989	5	91	33,766	4	76	223	8	110	1
Casiguran	3	89,496	8,789	80,707	48,950	1	54	36,599	3	68	12,351	1	24	25
Dilasag	4	23,429	4,302	19,127	30,228	7	102	28,552	6	97	1,676	7	101	6
Dinalungan	4	34,190	8,844	25,346	25,790	8	110	21,824	8	110	3,966	6	75	15
Dingalan	4	45,768	5,549	40,219	33,367	6	94	27,768	7	101	5,598	4	62	17
Dipaculao	4	53,786	3,891	49,895	37,342	4	84	32,516	5	81	4,826	5	69	13
Maria Aurora	3	55,200	12,553	42,647	46,909	2	59	39,146	1	60	7,763	3	43	17
San Luis	3	50,238	18,518	31,719	45,901	3	62	37,096	2	66	8,805	2	36	19
Bataan		1,277,810	460,101	817,717	720,375		5	614,582		5	105,794		6	
Abucay	4	37,131	4,247	32,884	43,204	6	70	30,319	10	88	12,885	3	20	30
Bagac	4	36,578	14,504	22,073	34,951	9	88	32,768	8	80	2,183	9	94	6
Dinalupihan	2	116,886	62,380	54,506	76,960	3	22	82,626	3	14	(5,666)	11	118	(7)
Hermosa	3	91,301	41,734	49,567	54,234	5	48	44,931	5	47	9,303	5	35	17
Limay	1	305,919	10,754	295,164	142,766	2	5	102,437	2	7	40,329	1	1	28
Mariveles	1	411,155	222,016	189,140	158,494	1	2	135,131	1	2	23,363	2	8	15
Morong	4	95,773	21,383	74,190	39,746	8	78	37,193	6	64	2,553	8	87	6
Orani	2	118,913	58,634	60,279	62,606	4	34	53,179	4	39	9,427	4	34	15
Orion	4	15,287	3,347	11,939	42,510	7	72	35,440	7	72	7,071	6	48	17
Pilar	4	36,060	18,896	17,164	33,118	10	96	30,436	9	87	2,682	7	84	8
Samal	4	12,813	2,003	10,810	31,786	11	97	30,121	11	90	1,665	10	102	5
Bulacan		2,398,195	870,106	1,528,089	1,925,210		1	1,733,384		1	191,826		1	
Angat	2	53,390	19,782	33,608	56,773	16	44	51,092	17	42	5,681	14	61	10
Balagtas	2	104,149	24,014	80,134	74,818	13	25	61,232	14	27	13,587	5	17	18
Baliuag	1	138,814	31,047	107,767	118,843	4	7	112,191	4	6	6,652	13	53	6
Bocaue	1	94,761	32,080	62,681	92,041	8	12	89,465	7	11	2,576	18	86	3
Bulacan	2	45,591	14,006	31,584	55,539	17	45	48,588	18	44	6,951	12	50	13
Bustos	3	36,650	10,968	25,682	43,739	21	68	39,857	20	57	3,883	16	76	9
Calumpit	1	92,198	13,117	79,081	93,256	7	11	88,926	8	12	4,331	15	71	5
D.R. Trinidad	2	75,561	9,429	66,132	54,451	18	47	44,795	19	48	9,657	7	32	18
Guiguinto	2	75,747	28,922	46,825	79,446	12	21	77,209	10	17	2,238	19	92	3
Hagonoy	1	92,474	49,737	42,718	87,888	9	13	86,313	9	13	1,576	20	104	2
Marilao	1	143,794	9,771	134,024	112,202	5	8	101,948	6	8	10,254	6	30	9
Meycauayan	1	382,292	233,355	148,937	230,568	1	1	205,901	1	1	24,667	2	5	11
Norzagaray	1	240,930	89,295	151,635	142,223	3	6	118,837	3	5	23,385	3	7	16
Obando	3	35,742	12,863	22,879	49,187	19	52	53,288	16	37	(4,101)	22	117	(8)
Pandi	4	60,615	15,121	45,494	43,841	20	67	36,741	22	67	7,100	11	47	16
Paombong	3	31,156	15,881	15,275	41,376	22	73	37,656	21	61	3,720	17	78	9
Plaridel	1	83,159	26,545	56,614	83,119	11	17	75,326	11	20	7,794	10	42	9
Pulilan	1	161,076	92,272	68,803	86,051	10	15	70,889	12	22	15,161	4	13	18
San Ildefonso	2	55,408	35,819	19,589	60,134	15	40	63,822	13	23	(3,688)	21	116	(6)
San Miguel	1	78,785	38,867	39,918	102,539	6	10	94,739	6	9	7,800	9	41	8
San Rafael	2	52,149	14,418	37,731	61,857	14	37	53,831	15	33	8,026	8	40	13
Sta. Maria	1	263,756	52,777	210,979	155,318	2	3	120,739	2	4	34,579	1	2	22
Nueva Ecija		1,412,316	530,985	881,332	1,142,917		3	1,007,370		3	135,547		3	
Aliaga	4	34,181	10,618	23,563	40,785	14	75	31,995	17	82	8,790	4	37	22
Bongabon	3	80,211	37,386	42,825	46,265	10	60	39,842	10	58	6,423	11	56	14
Cabiao	3	79,177	9,046	70,131	48,762	9	55	44,637	7	49	4,125	17	74	8
Carranglan	3	42,106	2,635	39,470	52,164	6	50	41,276	9	54	10,887	2	27	21
Cuyapo	3	69,381	15,997	53,583	51,163	7	51	44,610	8	50	6,553	10	55	13
G.M. Natividad	4	73,910	21,247	52,663	30,734	20	95	23,683	21	96	7,051	16	70	23
Gabaldon	4	19,007	6,773	12,234	33,147	22	101	28,663	24	107	4,484	8	49	14
Gen. Tinio	3	77,735	17,436	60,309	44,604	11	65	33,744	14	77	10,860	3	28	24
Guimba	1	115,732	44,437	71,295	72,812	2	26	75,425	1	19	(2,612)	27	115	(4)
Jaen	3	54,893	20,643	34,250	43,440	12	69	34,989	13	73	8,450	5	39	19
Laur	4	35,410	16,946	18,464	35,127	17	87	29,151	20	94	5,976	13	58	17
Licab	5	24,501	16,962	7,539	23,635	26	112	23,103	25	108	532	24	109	2
Llanera	4	31,311	14,208	17,103	31,189	21	98	26,027	22	102	5,162	15	66	17
Lupao	4	43,590	11,179	32,411	33,556	19	92	29,861	19	92	3,696	18	79	11
Nampicuan	5	22,545	804	21,742	17,603	27	117	16,398	27	116	1,205	23	107	7
Pantabangan	4	45,978	29,491	16,486	64,283	3	33	58,791	3	30	5,492	14	65	9
Penaranda	4	24,178	6,358	17,820	26,660	24	109	23,969	23	106	2,691	19	83	10
Quezon	4	36,673	7,379	29,294	29,760	23	103	30,812	18	86	(1,051)	26	114	(4)
Rizal	3	46,834	18,835	27,999	42,691	13	71	36,095	11	69	6,596	9	54	15
San Antonio	3	56,047	26,601	29,446	53,922	5	49	46,562	6	45	7,360	6	45	14
San Isidro	4	55,929	40,004	15,924	37,100	16	85	35,894	12	70	1,206	22	106	3
San Leonardo	3	42,294	49,883	(7,589)	59,387	4	41	53,346	4	36	6,040	12	57	10
Santa Rosa	3	62,513	31,634	30,880	49,007	8	53	49,091	5	43	(84)	25	113	(0)
Sto. Domingo	4	49,505	9,321	40,184	40,168	15	76	32,813	16	79	7,356	7	46	18
Talavera	1	101,196	26,201	74,994	75,726	1	23	61,762	2	26	13,965	1	15	18
Talugtug	5	48,418	17,442	30,976	24,324	25	111	21,687	26	112	2,637	20	85	11
Zaragoza	4	38,860	21,526	17,334	34,915	18	89	33,156	15	78	1,759	21	99	5
Pampanga		682,390	281,596	400,794	1,222,010		2	1,061,046		2	160,964		2	
Apalit	2	13,534	4,743	8,791	68,519	7	30	62,937	5	24	5,581	9	64	8
Arayat	2	25,288	2,730	22,559	67,417	8	32	54,809	9	32	12,609	4	23	19
Bacolor	4	7,278	5,637	1,642	39,754	13	77	39,813	12	59	(59)	20	112	(0)
Candaba	2	15,143	1,933	13,211	61,065	10	38	60,327	6	28	738	18	108	1
Floridablanca	2	26,184	11,397	14,787	70,051	6	27	57,987	8	31	12,064	5	25	17
Guagua	1	35,939	21,965	13,974	81,781	4	18	79,466	3	15	2,315	13	91	3
Lubao	1	94,654	23,651	71,002	87,212	3	14	76,742	4	18	10,470	7	29	12
Mabalacat	1	138,316	114,222	24,094	153,322	1	4	129,498	1	3	23,824	3	6	16
Macabebe	3	69,012	3,529	65,483	56,728	12	45	53,087	11	41	3,641	11	81	6
Magalang	3	23,875	8,599	15,276	61,965	9	36	59,998	7	29	1,967	14	97	3
Masantol	3	13,210	10,392	2,818	39,081	14	79	37,345	13	63	1,736	15	100	4
Mexico	2	34,026	11,586	22,440	105,610	2	9	94,224	2	10	11,386	6	26	11
Minalin	4	6,833	3,296	3,537	31,119	18	100	29,481	16	93	1,638	16	103	5
Porac	2	46,507	3,405	43,102	79,455	5	20	53,259	10	38	26,197	2	4	33
San Luis	4	35,508	7,379	28,129	60,141	11	39	27,977	18	100	32,163	1	3	53
San Simon	4	37,793	30,569	7,223	38,345	15	80	37,100	14	65	1,245	17	105	3
Sta. Ana	4	18,029	3,050	14,980	33,396	16	93	29,942	15	91	3,453	12	82	10
Sta. Rita	4	9,929	1,241	8,688	31,165	17	99	25,465	19	105	5,700	8	60	18
Sto. Tomas	4	21,928	10,687	11,240	29,234	19	105	29,133	17	95	102	19	111	0
Sasmuan	4	9,406	1,586	7,820	26,651	20	108	22,457	20	109	4,194	10	73	16
Tarlac		925,336	189,347	735,989	763,111		4	632,768		4	130,343		4	
Anao	5	26,286	6,145	20,141	16,980	17	118	14,755	17	118	2,225	14	93	13
Bamban	4	30,672	2,442	28,230	45,394	8	63	41,141	7	55	4,254	11	72	9
Camiling	1	125,952	33,522	92,430	69,619	3	28	53,563	3	35	16,056	2	12	23
Capas	1	90,403	28,678	61,725	81,565	2	19	79,400	1	16	2,165	15	95	3
Concepcion	1	95,917	19,343	76,574	84,597	1	16	71,243	2	21	13,354	5	19	16
Gerona	2	56,491	8,375	48,116	57,891	5	43	44,478	5	51	13,413	4	18	23
La Paz	3	41,079	3,766	37,314	44,114	9	66	41,695	6	53	2,419	13	89	5
Mayantoc	4	47,787	11,914	35,873	37,836	11	82	28,063	11	98	9,773	7	31	26
Moncada	3	54,454	10,140	44,314	47,701	7	57	34,849	9	74	12,852	6	21	27
Paniqui	1	118,429	13,836	104,592	69,405	4	29	53,165	4	40	16,240	1	11	23
Pura	5	21,345	1,875	19,470	23,532	13	113	18,663	14	114	4,869	10	68	21
Ramos	5	29,835	9,681	20,154	19,818	15	115	17,333	15	115	2,485	12	88	13
San Clemente	5	53,861	6,224	47,637	18,264	16	116	16,256	16	117	2,007	16	96	11
San Jose	4	33,363	12,564	20,799	34,691	12	90	27,987	12	99	6,704	8	51	19
San Manuel	5	9,936	3,128	6,808	22,639	14	114	20,806	13	113	1,833	17	98	8
Sta. Ignacia	4	31,463	9,996	21,467	41,060	10	74	35,470	8	71	5,590	9	63	14
Victoria	3	58,064	7,718	50,345	48,004	6	56	33,900	10	75	14,104	3	14	29
Zambales		977,270	236,506	740,764	599,428		6	479,139		6	120,289		5	
Botolan	2	129,521	9,673	119,847	68,464	2	31	45,437	3	46	23,027	1	9	34
Cabangan	4	23,422	3,189	20,233	29,441	11	104	25,706	11	103	3,735	11	77	13
Candelaria	4	66,806	20,900	45,906	35,944	10	86	31,010	9	85	4,934	10	67	14
Castillejos	4	51,933	12,390	39,543	37,833	9	83	31,155	8	84	6,678	8	52	18
Iba	3	24,738	6,636	18,102	46,055	6	61	42,366	4	52	3,689	12	80	8
Masinloc	1	176,448	65,149	111,299	58,506	4	42	40,872	5	56	17,634	2	10	30
Palauig	4	51,552	6,346	45,207	37,967	8	81	30,314	10	89	7,653	7	44	20
San Antonio	4	72,128	19,018	53,110	45,243	7	64	31,440	7	83	13,803	3	16	31
San Felipe	4	18,236	6,918	11,318	27,969	12	106	25,577	12	104	2,391	13	90	9
San Marcelino	3	76,554	19,299	57,255	47,071	5	58	37,597	6	62	9,474	5	33	20
San Narciso	4	30,474	3,413	27,061	27,696	13	107	21,750	13	111	5,946	9	59	21
Sta. Cruz	2	84,178	22,053	62,125	62,325	3	35	53,697	2	34	8,628	6	38	14
Subic	2	171,288	41,531	129,758	74,913	1	24	62,216	1	25	12,697	4	22	17
REGION 4		19,948,098	5,390,530	14,557,568	12,712,420			10,333,912			2,378,507			
Batangas		3,102,195	681,629	2,420,566	1,738,594		4	1,323,640		4	414,954		2	
Agoncillo	4	20,209	3,333	16,876	28,661	25	137	23,666	22	145	5,006	24	108	17
Alitagtag	5	51,578	5,387	46,191	23,443	26	163	18,449	26	173	4,994	25	109	21
Balayan	1	161,962	63,400	98,562	80,058	6	38	72,909	5	33	7,149	19	80	9
Balete	5	9,477	2,103	7,374	18,795	30	184	14,836	31	187	3,959	26	124	21
Bauan	1	431,422	114,454	316,969	219,393	1	11	201,491	1	8	17,902	7	26	8
Calaca	1	112,878	32,438	80,440	69,552	11	58	51,814	9	56	7,738	17	70	13
Calatagan	3	123,601	40,682	82,919	44,542	13	83	34,530	13	93	10,012	12	53	22
Cuenca	4	44,454	6,998	37,456	29,507	23	132	20,982	24	159	8,525	14	59	29
Ibaan	4	81,807	18,102	63,705	41,264	15	94	33,113	14	98	8,152	15	63	20
Laurel	4	46,347	12,676	33,671	31,331	22	126	20,819	25	160	10,512	11	49	34
Lemery	2	99,445	15,298	84,148	67,017	8	61	51,990	8	55	15,027	10	34	22
Lian	4	29,357	2,640	26,717	38,507	18	101	29,065	18	115	9,442	13	56	25
Lobo	4	49,737	3,691	46,046	36,089	19	109	28,949	19	118	7,139	20	81	20
Mabini	3	110,637	46,344	64,293	63,049	10	54	55,036	7	51	8,014	16	65	13
Malvar	4	81,329	13,726	67,603	42,843	14	89	24,445	21	139	18,399	6	25	43
Mataas na Kahoy	5	37,003	1,553	35,452	23,122	27	167	17,250	27	179	5,872	23	101	25
Nasugbu	1	350,499	83,305	267,194	128,052	3	20	75,710	4	30	52,341	2	9	41
Padre Garcia	3	54,841	11,947	42,894	39,504	16	99	37,090	12	88	2,414	29	162	6
Rosario	1	90,275	13,049	77,226	81,590	5	35	63,741	6	45	17,849	8	27	22
San Jose	3	85,991	13,344	72,647	54,381	12	66	27,938	20	123	26,444	3	18	49
San Juan	2	102,790	12,069	90,721	70,550	7	46	51,366	10	57	19,184	5	23	27
San Luis	4	27,709	3,142	24,567	29,087	24	134	22,614	23	151	6,473	21	88	22
San Nicolas	5	20,745	4,995	15,750	18,910	28	182	16,582	28	181	2,328	31	157	12
San Pascual	1	193,274	38,223	155,051	102,713	4	24	78,417	3	28	24,296	4	21	24
Sta. Teresita	5	27,021	5,977	21,043	18,873	29	183	15,167	30	186	3,706	27	126	20
Sto. Tomas	1	404,974	40,958	364,016	154,070	2	16	78,913	2	27	75,158	1	5	49
Taal	4	53,998	5,749	48,249	38,968	17	100	31,283	16	109	7,686	18	71	20
Talisay	4	49,481	17,063	32,418	35,773	20	111	29,408	17	114	6,365	22	92	18
Taysan	4	84,920	17,648	67,272	65,841	9	52	48,309	11	60	17,532	9	28	27
Tingloy	5	15,578	958	14,620	18,630	31	185	15,630	29	185	3,000	28	141	16
Tuy	4	28,855	10,377	18,477	34,478	21	119	32,141	15	106	2,336	30	156	7
Cavite		3,244,253	1,026,442	2,217,811	2,287,648		2	1,907,523		1	380,125		3	
Alfonso	3	39,025	11,399	27,626	49,761	12	71	45,001	13	60	4,761	11	113	10
Amadeo	4	29,761	20,609	9,152	27,539	17	142	27,428	17	127	111	18	195	0
Bacoor	1	576,022	173,308	402,714	304,311	2	6	235,187	2	4	69,123	2	7	23
Carmona	1	253,893	59,359	194,533	210,453	5	13	166,321	5	14	44,132	4	11	21
Dasmariñas	1	431,735	130,600	301,135	338,043	1	5	258,755	1	3	79,288	1	4	23
Gen. E. Aguinaldo	5	8,024	3,928	4,096	19,969	20	177	18,743	20	172	1,226	17	181	6
Gen. M. Alvarez	2	103,918	59,514	43,404	83,956	9	33	67,101	10	38	16,855	8	30	20
Gen. Trias	1	266,839	63,526	203,313	230,666	4	9	190,058	4	10	40,630	5	12	17
Imus	1	412,956	108,153	304,803	259,575	3	7	225,714	3	6	33,861	6	16	13
Indang	3	55,978	11,017	44,961	49,255	13	73	53,388	12	54	(4,134)	20	200	(8)

	Class	Balance Sheet			Statement of Income and Expenses									% of Net Income to Total Income
		Total Assets	Total Liabilities	Total Equity	Total Income	Rank		Total Expenses	Rank		Net Income	Rank		
						1	2		1	2		1	2	
Kawit	1	175,893	93,669	82,224	65,550	11	53	63,212	11	46	2,338	15	155	4
Magallanes	5	23,165	3,884	19,281	23,100	19	168	19,118	19	171	3,982	14	121	17
Maragondon	4	51,853	18,068	33,785	34,437	15	120	33,022	15	101	1,416	16	175	4
Mendez	4	26,387	2,046	24,341	26,997	18	146	22,955	18	149	4,042	13	119	15
Naic	2	96,978	26,476	70,502	74,029	10	42	67,632	9	37	6,397	9	91	9
Noveleta	4	77,204	27,175	50,030	39,704	14	98	35,042	14	90	4,662	12	116	12
Rosario	1	190,321	31,065	159,256	141,519	7	18	123,086	7	16	18,433	7	24	13
Silang	1	275,703	84,479	191,227	172,075	6	15	123,221	6	15	48,854	3	10	28
Tanza	1	67,313	25,453	41,860	99,078	8	25	93,724	8	20	5,354	10	106	5
Ternate	4	60,083	50,515	9,568	29,600	16	131	30,815	16	110	(1,214)	19	199	(4)
Laguna		4,073,177	957,468	3,115,709	2,406,823		1	1,873,461		2	533,362		1	
Alaminos	4	37,665	17,918	19,747	40,561	11	95	32,287	11	105	8,274	6	61	20
Bay	3	43,733	13,216	30,517	45,447	7	81	42,626	7	74	2,822	18	145	6
Biñan	1	802,733	139,402	663,331	403,134	2	2	226,737	3	5	176,397	1	1	44
Cabuyao	1	733,924	150,070	583,853	364,242	3	4	292,906	2	2	71,336	3	6	20
Calauan	2	62,386	7,553	55,033	42,462	10	92	35,406	10	89	7,056	8	82	17
Cavinti	4	42,313	4,460	37,853	30,474	16	129	24,026	19	141	6,448	9	89	21
Famy	5	13,003	913	12,090	16,857	28	191	16,371	28	183	485	27	194	3
Kalayaan	5	21,752	4,118	17,634	24,806	21	157	21,329	24	157	3,477	16	133	14
Liliw	4	30,541	14,063	16,478	32,676	14	124	27,429	15	126	5,247	14	107	16
Los Baños	1	90,791	18,959	71,832	91,533	6	27	83,345	6	23	8,188	7	62	9
Luisiana	5	18,761	3,675	15,086	24,175	22	161	22,776	21	150	1,399	21	176	6
Lumban	4	25,090	3,023	22,068	30,576	15	127	29,968	13	113	607	25	191	2
Mabitac	5	22,479	2,599	19,881	21,763	26	174	19,375	26	169	2,388	20	154	11
Magdalena	5	15,550	8,165	7,385	21,930	25	173	23,071	20	148	(1,140)	28	198	(5)
Majayjay	4	12,253	5,491	6,762	23,244	23	166	22,438	22	152	806	24	188	3
Nagcarlan	4	57,146	15,735	41,411	45,389	8	82	39,382	8	80	6,007	10	98	13
Paete	4	12,506	2,013	10,494	25,929	19	152	25,108	18	136	821	23	187	3
Pagsanjan	4	41,729	15,038	26,691	36,388	12	112	30,034	12	112	6,355	13	105	16
Pakil	5	10,310	2,683	7,628	22,669	24	171	20,256	25	165	2,413	19	153	11
Pangil	5	34,010	3,433	30,577	25,363	20	156	21,748	23	155	3,614	15	139	14
Pila	4	40,346	14,719	25,627	35,249	13	113	29,357	14	115	5,893	12	100	17
Rizal	5	14,861	3,592	11,269	18,248	27	186	17,689	27	177	559	26	192	3
San Pedro	1	392,297	118,060	274,237	225,783	4	10	200,185	4	9	25,599	4	20	11
Sta. Cruz	1	155,768	43,858	111,911	120,410	5	21	109,915	5	18	10,495	5	50	9
Sta. Maria	4	20,820	3,457	17,363	27,754	18	140	26,391	16	129	1,362	22	178	5
Sta. Rosa	1	1,237,119	319,892	917,228	537,848	1	1	369,614	1	1	168,234	2	3	31
Siniloan	3	42,983	6,356	36,629	43,838	9	84	37,880	9	85	5,959	11	99	14
Victoria	4	38,115	13,009	25,106	29,077	17	135	25,814	17	133	3,262	17	138	11
Marinduque		415,860	64,297	351,564	244,870		10	206,882		10	37,988		10	
Boac	2	101,980	20,127	81,853	56,286	2	64	45,726	2	67	10,560	2	48	19
Buenavista	UN	24,001	12,449	11,552	23,273	6	165	18,377	6	174	4,896	5	110	21
Gasan	4	55,248	9,374	45,874	36,738	3	108	28,953	3	117	7,785	3	68	21
Mogpog	4	46,998	5,617	41,381	35,041	4	115	28,315	4	119	6,726	4	86	19
Santa Cruz	2	149,755	13,317	136,438	61,764	1	56	48,047	1	61	13,718	1	37	22
Torrijos	4	37,877	3,413	34,464	31,768	5	125	37,464	5	86	(5,697)	6	201	(18)
Occidental Mindoro		689,442	95,525	593,917	539,634		8	457,850		8	81,784		8	
Abra De Ilog	4	30,446	7,893	22,553	11,344	11	202	19,802	10	166	(8,458)	11	202	(75)
Calintaan	4	16,003	1,567	14,434	29,925	8	130	26,171	9	132	3,754	7	125	13
Looc	5	17,027	4,559	12,467	19,415	10	181	14,668	11	188	4,747	6	114	24
Lubang	4	26,296	9,232	17,064	27,482	9	144	27,776	8	124	(294)	10	197	(1)
Magsaysay	4	30,622	6,699	23,923	35,877	6	110	33,263	5	97	2,615	8	148	7
Mamburao	4	55,429	11,633	43,796	47,882	4	76	39,862	3	79	8,019	4	64	17
Paluan	4	54,464	1,239	53,224	40,246	5	96	32,675	7	103	7,572	5	73	19
Rizal	4	21,997	7,313	14,683	34,760	7	117	32,984	6	102	1,777	9	166	5
Sablayan	1	253,688	27,062	226,626	129,173	1	19	93,464	2	21	35,709	1	14	28
San Jose	1	120,931	11,468	109,453	114,816	2	22	99,995	1	19	14,821	2	35	13
Sta. Cruz	3	62,540	6,859	55,682	48,713	3	74	37,189	4	87	11,524	3	42	24
Oriental Mindoro		979,532	154,892	824,639	652,822		7	569,217		7	83,606		7	
Baco	4	56,250	1,923	54,327	33,962	12	121	26,599	13	128	7,363	6	76	22
Bansud	3	68,437	18,663	49,774	42,472	8	91	31,428	10	108	11,044	1	45	26
Bongabong	2	128,493	13,111	115,381	70,271	2	47	60,861	3	48	9,410	3	57	13
Bulalacao	4	22,096	6,101	15,994	36,102	11	108	30,718	11	111	5,384	8	103	15
Gloria	4	71,742	12,750	58,992	43,147	7	88	42,521	6	75	626	14	190	1
Mansalay	3	65,043	10,199	54,845	47,245	5	77	42,928	5	73	4,317	9	117	9
Naujan	1	164,824	14,766	150,057	76,728	1	39	66,324	2	42	10,404	2	52	14
Pinamalayan	2	64,849	6,763	58,086	70,115	3	48	66,560	1	41	3,555	11	130	5
Pola	4	62,976	10,897	52,079	32,835	13	122	26,183	14	131	6,652	7	86	20
Puerto Galera	3	65,384	19,832	45,551	48,040	4	75	44,709	4	69	3,330	12	137	7
Roxas	4	48,391	8,498	39,893	41,457	9	93	34,091	8	96	7,365	5	75	18
San Teodoro	4	30,227	2,071	28,156	30,029	14	129	28,300	12	120	1,730	13	170	6
Socorro	4	68,563	22,305	46,258	36,698	10	107	33,081	9	99	3,616	10	128	10
Victoria	3	62,258	7,013	55,245	43,723	6	85	34,913	7	92	8,810	4	58	20
Palawan		1,073,327	239,082	834,245	1,116,901		6	988,913		6	127,988		6	
Aborlan	2	61,504	11,340	50,164	54,180	11	67	46,765	10	65	7,414	9	74	14
Agutaya	5	21,268	2,713	18,555	16,296	22	193	11,999	23	201	4,297	13	118	26
Araceli	5	13,554	7,206	6,347	23,054	18	169	22,423	18	153	631	22	189	3
Balabac	3	25,621	2,862	22,759	43,538	12	86	41,950	12	76	1,587	16	171	4
Bataraza	2	77,688	11,787	65,901	58,105	9	62	46,886	9	64	11,219	3	43	19
Brookes Point	1	95,365	17,308	78,057	88,378	1	30	81,836	2	25	6,543	11	87	7
Busuanga	UN	38,105	4,528	33,578	34,705	16	118	27,656	16	125	7,049	10	83	20
Cagayancillo	6	3,389	405	2,984	13,756	23	200	13,662	22	193	94	23	196	1
Coron	2	70,404	15,048	55,356	57,646	10	63	44,378	11	70	13,269	1	38	23
Culion	4	25,633	6,867	18,766	37,542	14	105	34,990	13	91	2,552	15	149	7
Cuyo	4	17,299	4,542	12,757	25,468	17	155	24,314	17	140	1,154	21	184	5
Dumaran	4	51,241	13,376	37,866	35,042	15	114	32,401	15	104	2,641	14	147	8
El Nido	2	51,933	6,604	45,329	62,442	8	55	54,456	8	52	7,986	7	66	13
Española	4	48,174	14,220	33,954	39,911	13	97	34,202	14	95	5,710	12	102	14
Kalayaan	5	20,887	555	20,332	19,622	20	180	18,332	20	176	1,290	19	180	7
Linapacan/Abordo	5	19,888	3,438	16,451	20,835	19	176	19,371	19	170	1,464	17	173	7
Magsaysay	5	14,184	2,200	11,984	17,863	21	189	16,673	21	180	1,190	20	182	7
Narra	1	56,404	18,598	37,806	76,311	5	40	67,885	5	35	8,426	6	60	11
Quezon	1	56,757	12,665	44,092	68,346	7	49	55,185	7	50	13,161	2	39	19
Rizal	2	95,454	10,794	84,659	72,457	6	43	61,492	6	47	10,965	4	46	15
Roxas	1	58,426	8,722	49,704	80,728	4	37	73,153	4	32	7,575	8	72	9
San Vicente	1	80,244	52,761	27,483	84,125	3	32	82,829	1	24	1,296	18	179	2
Taytay	1	69,905	10,544	59,361	86,551	2	31	76,078	3	29	10,473	5	51	12
Quezon		3,213,387	1,453,903	1,759,484	1,864,372		3	1,550,488		3	313,884		5	
Agdangan	5	13,805	3,123	10,683	16,440	38	192	13,789	37	192	2,651	30	146	16
Alabat	5	21,215	1,901	19,313	24,597	30	158	18,354	34	175	6,243	17	95	25
Atimonan	2	79,523	14,830	64,693	58,543	11	61	51,235	10	58	7,309	13	77	12
Buenavista	4	42,228	11,112	31,117	27,894	23	139	23,929	26	143	3,965	21	123	14
Burdeos	4	26,447	6,623	19,824	27,595	24	141	20,371	30	162	7,224	15	79	26
Calauag	2	73,137	15,473	57,664	55,738	12	65	40,493	17	78	15,245	5	33	27
Candelaria	1	82,393	29,539	52,854	81,392	4	36	64,037	6	43	17,356	3	29	21
Catanauan	3	58,679	5,106	53,573	51,071	14	69	47,054	12	63	4,017	20	120	8
Dolores	6	33,881	13,709	20,172	27,519	25	143	24,613	25	138	2,906	29	143	11
General Luna	5	17,547	4,504	13,043	24,565	31	159	21,650	28	156	2,916	28	142	12
General Nakar	1	102,778	30,670	72,108	72,050	6	44	59,304	8	49	12,746	8	41	18
Guinayangan	4	59,754	19,638	40,116	38,249	19	103	32,111	20	107	6,138	18	96	16
Gumaca	2	71,826	18,918	52,908	58,618	9	59	53,843	9	53	4,774	19	112	8
Infanta	2	61,955	9,411	52,545	58,579	10	60	45,745	13	66	12,834	7	40	22
Jomalig	6	13,081	1,860	11,221	14,744	39	197	13,583	38	194	1,161	36	183	8
Lopez	1	100,634	11,847	88,787	75,605	5	41	67,801	3	36	7,804	12	68	10
Lucban	3	38,571	5,214	33,357	46,286	17	78	43,870	14	71	2,415	31	151	5
Macalelon	4	16,162	1,857	14,305	26,862	26	147	24,878	24	137	1,984	34	163	7
Mauban	1	1,069,633	731,679	337,954	245,254	1	8	176,589	1	13	68,665	1	8	28
Mulanay	3	33,963	8,792	25,171	49,415	16	72	47,372	11	62	2,043	32	161	4
Padre Burgos	5	22,131	3,668	18,463	23,036	35	170	19,687	33	168	3,349	25	136	15
Pagbilao	1	437,342	299,663	137,679	89,846	3	28	67,062	4	39	22,784	2	22	25
Panukulan	5	29,315	9,392	19,923	23,748	33	162	20,307	31	163	3,442	24	134	14
Patnanungan	5	-		-	-						-			
Perez	5	15,947	6,450	9,497	17,392	37	190	13,857	36	191	3,535	23	132	20
Pitogo	5	29,721	6,030	23,690	23,427	34	164	20,290	32	164	3,137	27	140	13
Plaridel	5	13,188	3,853	9,335	26,735	28	149	12,512	39	200	14,223	6	36	53
Polillo	4	33,227	9,410	23,817	32,676	21	123	26,335	22	130	6,341	16	93	19
Quezon	5	13,015	5,329	7,685	24,249	32	160	14,407	35	189	9,843	10	54	41
Real	3	62,594	9,073	53,522	50,722	15	70	41,197	16	77	9,526	11	55	19
Sampaloc	5	29,173	6,383	22,793	22,594	36	172	20,581	29	161	2,013	33	162	9
San Andres	4	20,016	2,755	17,261	28,872	22	136	27,988	21	122	884	37	185	3
San Antonio	5	20,632	13,537	7,114	25,628	29	154	25,124	23	135	504	39	193	2
San Francisco	4	39,532	5,146	34,386	45,521	18	80	43,548	15	72	1,973	35	164	4
San Narciso	4	63,504	6,602	56,902	37,670	20	104	34,497	19	94	3,173	26	139	8
Sariaya	1	65,493	9,745	55,749	91,915	2	26	80,794	2	26	11,121	9	44	12
Tagkawayan	2	94,992	21,583	73,409	54,160	13	68	38,157	18	84	16,004	4	32	30
Tayabas	2	108,631	44,014	64,617	71,020	7	45	63,765	7	44	7,255	14	78	10
Tiaong	2	61,600	33,003	28,598	67,389	8	50	66,560	5	40	829	38	186	1
Unisan	4	36,099	12,463	23,634	26,754	27	148	23,203	27	147	3,551	22	131	13
Rizal		2,754,329	639,450	2,114,840	1,490,081		5	1,137,793		5	352,288		4	
Angono	1	108,059	34,888	73,170	83,294	7	34	75,352	6	31	7,942	8	67	10
Baras	4	35,537	28,330	7,206	29,263	12	133	25,282	12	134	3,981	12	122	14
Binangonan	1	157,912	87,009	70,903	152,599	4	17	119,581	4	17	33,017	3	16	22
Cainta	1	1,352,998	223,400	1,129,598	382,726	1	3	210,172	1	7	172,554	1	2	45
Cardona	4	52,603	8,138	44,465	38,393	11	102	33,020	11	100	5,364	10	104	14
Jala Jala	5	22,694	13,935	8,759	25,699	13	153	23,961	13	142	1,738	13	169	7
Morong	4	45,046	19,697	25,350	43,402	10	87	38,814	10	83	4,669	11	115	11
Pililla	2	123,239	16,280	106,959	59,586	8	57	48,930	8	59	10,656	7	47	18
Rodriguez	1	258,749	114,518	144,231	210,397	3	14	184,791	2	11	25,606	5	19	12
San Mateo	1	199,888	6,311	193,577	111,208	5	23	83,981	5	22	27,226	4	17	24
Tanay	1	158,234	25,704	132,530	89,217	6	29	72,874	7	34	16,343	6	31	18
Taytay	1	189,384	42,984	146,600	218,476	2	12	181,709	3	12	36,768	2	13	17
Teresa	4	49,787	18,396	31,391	45,743	9	79	39,316	9	81	6,427	9	90	14
Romblon		402,596	77,803	324,794	370,674		9	318,146		9	52,528		9	
Alcantara	5	13,116	3,904	9,213	17,870	11	188	16,122	10	184	1,756	13	167	10
Banton	5	12,130	2,236	9,894	15,060	13	195	12,995	15	198	2,065	11	160	14
Cajidiocan	4	36,772	3,781	32,990	28,083	3	138	22,043	5	154	6,041	3	97	22
Calatrava	5	24,974	1,331	23,654	18,057	10	187	13,188	13	196	4,869	4	111	27
Concepcion	UN	14,456	2,344	12,112	14,544	15	198	13,084	14	197	1,460	16	174	10
Corcuera	5	12,846	1,347	11,500	16,081	12	194	14,185	11	190	1,896	12	165	12
Ferrol	6	10,011	2,366	7,646	13,543	17	201	11,448	17	202	2,094	10	159	15
Looc	4	32,031	3,111	28,920	26,149	6	151	23,663	3	144	2,487	8	150	10
Magdiwang	6	17,404	2,719	14,686	19,692	9	179	17,503	8	178	2,189	9	158	11
Odiongan	3	43,264	19,543	23,722	42,645	1	90	39,025	1	82	3,620	5	127	8
Romblon	4	44,678	4,840	39,837	34,966	2	116	28,182	2	121	6,784	1	84	19
San Agustin	4	33,336	11,003	22,332	26,353	5	150	23,450	4	146	2,903	7	144	11
San Andres	5	17,406	7,225	10,181	21,164	7	175	19,773	7	167	1,391	17	177	7
San Fernando	4	43,911	3,966	39,945	27,430	4	145	21,089	6	158	6,341	2	94	23
San Jose	UN	2,648	1,161	1,487	15,056	14	196	13,312	12	195	1,744	14	168	12
Sta. Fe	UN	25,899	3,748	22,151	19,053	8	178	16,458	9	182	3,395	6	135	17
Sta. Maria	5	17,713	3,186	14,527	14,121	16	199	12,627	16	199	1,494	15	172	11

Difference between totals and sum of components is due to rounding off.

*1 – Provincial Ranking

2 – Regional Ranking

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 897-8425 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 897-8425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5224406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

RATES
P245 per column centimeter
P75 per line
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays
12:00 noon
Day before publication
Sundays
12:00 noon
every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

RAPID Tx VD-STD
Ex. SWEAT PIMPLES KELOID
ALLERGY WARTS SKIN PEEL
15 Annapolis Greenhills
Call 7276124 - 25 9am-7pm

VDSTD Skin Clinic Rapid
Tx Comp Lab Tel. 8175071
Matrinco 2178 P. Tamo Makati

PERSONAL

MASSAGE

PARAKLESIS THERAPEUTIC
TRAINING CENTER
Call 453-2645/0919-3834178
/0919-590176
SEMINAR ON MASSAGE!!!
(Free Meals)
With Certificate & Diploma

02-3233269 Best Boys

02-8347357 AKHIN THAI
BAGUIO CEBU MLA 24Hrs

ASK JOHN MALE MASSEURS
(0921)4115830

MALE 09173249921

MASSAGE 8539217 WARIN

THAI Msge Lic 0921-7569278

Therapeutic JB 4381050

REFLEXOLOGY

BODYLAX
131 Roosevelt Ave SFDM
Promo 40% 414-4488

★FEELS GOOD 4127758★

I-SPA Ctland 9 Mkt 8160151

•Wizard Massage 4213197•

TUTORIAL LESSONS

LANGUAGES P1,950/8930449

LIGHT 5301315 / 5268216

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

A'A MAIDS & YAYA 4386920

Best Maid Yaya Boy 9957034

BEST MAIDS YAYA COOK
LABA 842-9607 / 772-4213

Bestmaid Ya² w/NBI 4547542

Direct Maid Yaya 995-7034

EZ HOME AGNCY 8234243

GOOD MAID YAYA COOK
LABA 853-3505 853-3504

MAID BOY YAYA 7830738

MAIDS YAYA COOK LABA
912-4706 • 912-4701

PROVINCIAL ALL AROUND
MAIDS 873-7057•873-8740

ANGEL MAIDS 4213253

BEST MAIDS 8250754

Trusted Maids w/NBI 4392490

Yaya Cook Lava 8957507

IVYLANA MAIDS 9266984
YAYA 4331431

LIPAT BAHAY

•731-6833•LIPAT

800 LIPAT 6817623/6964936

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

L-BAHAY 8383742/09208449984

P1200/TRIP 742-14-57

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

LAS PINAS

Philam Vill 364m² 4br 2tb 1Grg
3.8M Neg. Jontee 09274907797

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

MANILA

Singalong Manila Bnew/Twnhse
/3stry/3br/3tbmaid's rm1-2grge
P3.990M up 8903461 loc. 34

MARIKINA

Bnew 4BR 3TB 2.8M 9487112

PARANAQUE

SAN ANTONIO VALLEY 1 nr CITY
HALL 5BR/5TB MAID's RM w/TB
GRGE T807-9279 / 807-7634

QUEZON CITY

300&1200m² West Triangle
280&800m² Apo St 9298376

Nr Ateneo 4.8m² & Up Build as
per Specs Call 645-3731

SIKATUNA VIL 68Maningning
81Mahiyain
9210255/9967 9220547

OTHER AREAS

P67/DAY MABUHAY CITY
PAG-IBIG • 0919-8804780

OTHER PROVINCIAL

TUGUEGARAO
1Sty Res. LA 401m² FA 188m²
Living, Receiving, Terrace
Area, 3BR 2TB, Kitchen,
Carport, Laundry Area, Elevated Tank w/Attic Floor
P2.785M 0921-2357900

BULACAN

STA. MARIA 225T 9372686

STA. MARIA LA38.5 FA22 Pag
Ibig down 5T M/A 2,378 4563409
09217377851 EMMA

LAGUNA

BINAN 400T CP (0927)6438231

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.1M C5 Nr The Fort
10T/mo. or 4Yrs No Int. or
10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR
15min Fr Mktl 0917-8313226

MKT NR AYALA
BnewTwnhse/3stry-3br/2-2 1/2tb/grge
P3.285M up 8903461 loc 34

MANILA

Nr UST 3.8M 4br 3tb 1cg Bank
Loan Ok! 645-3731

NR UST, ESPANA TOWER
6873372 0917-8102903

SN ANDRES MANILA Bnew
Twnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge
P3.355M up 8903461 loc 34

MANDALUYONG

RFO,Bnew,2.3M Up, Cash / TE Rm
W/ Disc., 1-3BR, 09192189817

PASIG

1.6M ORTIGAS AVE..
Resort-Type, 1st Class
2-4BR, P12T mo./No DP/0%
Bess • 0917-5234223

QUEZON CITY

Alpha Victoria 4br 3tb P8.5M
Near SLMC 0917-5213838

Eastwood City Libis 1-3br 6341212

NOVA Thss 2BR / 1TB / Laun
LA38 FA76 0922-8050207

STUDENT CONDO P650T UP
walk to ATENEO/MIRIAM
(0920) RSGHOME • 531-1384

LOT

QUEZON CITY

Lot Nr UP 200m² @ 7T/m² 645-3731

OTHER AREAS

BAGUIO 129m² 0922-8050207

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CENTRAL OFFICE
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Bldg. #1 San Lazaro Compound
Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz
Manila Philippines
Tel. No. (632) 743-83-01 Local
1625-1626
Fax No. (632) 743-72-36
E-Mail Address: www.doh.gov.ph

16 September 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

DISTRIBUTION AND BROKERAGE SERVICES
IFB No. 2004-10-19 (22) & 2004-10-20 (23)

1. The Department of Health (DOH), through the appropriation provided under the DOH Budget (RA No. 9206) intends to apply the sum of Thirty Million Philippine Pesos (PhP30,000,000.00) to provide **DISTRIBUTION SERVICES** and Eight Million Philippine Pesos (PhP8,000.00) for the **BROKERAGE SERVICES**, to the DOH Central Office and Centers for Health Development (CHD) for the CY 2005.
2. The Department of Health (DOH) now invites sealed Bids from eligible bidders, who are qualified to participate for the said services.
3. Eligibility of prospective Bidders to participate will be based on compliance to eligibility requirements, using pass/fail non-discretionary criteria, as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 (RA 9184), The Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA), and is open to all organizations with at least sixty (60%) percent interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. The process for eligibility check is described in Clause 12 Section II of the Instructions to Bidders. In accordance with the IRR of RA 9184, only those Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check shall be opened and the Purchase Order (PO) awarded to the Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Reponsive Bid, provided the Bidder concerned passes the post qualification process.
4. Interested Bidders who wish to inspect the Bidding Documents and obtain further information should contact the Procurement Division, 2nd Floor, Bldg. No. 6, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila, Telephone No. 741-97-75 (DL and Trunkline 743-83-01 Locals 1625 & 1626 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays. A complete set of the Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from **September 29 to 15 October 13, 2004** for the **DISTRIBUTION SERVICES** and **September 29 to October 15, 2004** for **BROKERAGE SERVICES**, upon submission of a written application to the following address.

   ALEXANDER A. PADILLA
   Undersecretary of Health and Chairperson
   Central Office Bids and Awards Committee
   Department of Health
   San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila

   and payment of a non-refundable fee of Ten Thousand Philippine Pesos (PhP10,000.00) for the Distribution Services and Five Thousand Philippine Pesos (PhP5,000,00) for the Brokerage Services. Payment shall be strictly on a cash basis.
5. The DOH will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties, to be held on **5 OCTOBER 2004** at the COBAC Conference Room, G/F, Bldg. No. 6, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila, for the two (2) packages as follows:

DISTRIBUTION SERVICES	9:00 A.M.
BROKERAGE SERVICES	1:30 P.M.

6. Deadline for Submission of Bids shall be at the above address with the following schedules:

DISTRIBUTION SERVICES	October 19, 2004	9:00 A.M.
BROKERAGE SERVICES	October 20, 2004	9:00 A.M.

7. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount at least equal to and not lower than, a percentage of the approved budget, in any of the following forms/terms:

a) Cash, Certified, Cashier's or Manager's Check, and Bank Draft	-	One Percent (1%)
b) Bank Guarantee	-	One & a Half percent (1-1/2%)

8. The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to issuance of contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) ALEXANDER A. PADILLA
Undersecretary of Health and Chairperson

(PDI--Sept. 28 & Oct. 5, 2004)

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

BAGUIO

Pinewood Baguio 300sq.m
4.5T 952-4254 • 936-9282

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

GOV FORBES APT UP/DOWN
CALL OFF HRS T-5233907

HONDREZ APT UP/DOWN
CALL OFF HRS T5233907

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

FOR RENT Condo Unit H.V.
Dela Costa Call Kellyn
721-4622 0917-8488291

MANILA

BAYVIEW TOWER III 3BR FULLY FURNISHED
OVERLOOKING ROXAS BLVD READY TO
OCCUPY CALL 3525090

QUEZON CITY

Twnhse 3br 2tb Fairview 10T
952-4254 • 936-9282

MANILA

2BR 1CR P8T @ 415-0311

QUEZON CITY

NO DEPOSIT P2.5T&P4T/mo
Proj4 4227217/09165141460

ROOM & BOARD

Chin. Gen P200 7118679

•FURNISH PASAY 6872865•

P200 Sucat Pque 8257524

BEDSPACE

Pasay Male 1.5th 550-0254

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

BUSINESS RENTAL

AYALA AVE 8181696/7586

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

BUSINES DOCTOR 524-3197

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

P.FAURA COR M.ADRIATICO 25m² &
20m² CALL OFF HRS T-5233907

OTHER REAL ESTATE

REALTORS/SEMINAR

BROKER'S REVIEW 4382966

REAL ESTATE SEMINAR-REVIEW
Oct. 1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18 & Nov. 8
FRDC Bldg. 106 E. Rodriguez Jr.
Ave., Bo. Ugong Pasig City, Atty.
Ruben B. Palacio Jr Lecturer-Reviewer. PAREB-Pasig Realtors
Board T#375-3854 • 914-1500

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

BMW

'94 BMW 2-Tone M/T
316i P500T 09274907797

MITSUBISHI

GLXI 95" RUSH SALE SPORTY
LOOK Flooded 2727813

VOLKSWAGON

88 Volvo Silvr SWgon 250T 8133828

VAN/PICK-UP

'98 L300 Van 2-Tone M/T 1.8 Gas
P280T Neg. 09274907797

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Pajero Land Cruiser Surf
Terrano Space Gear Serena
Delica Town-Lite -Hi Ace
Safari Vanette RVR Estima
Elf Canter etc. Finance T-In
832-8659 / 0920-2981098

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

BENZ Jaguar Lincoln 6825922

CAR VANS 410-0495

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

CARS/VANS/BRIDAL 8969956

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

Hi-Ace B-new Cars 7297378

LEDC CAR RENTAL
Call 5306680 - 3039621

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

Toyco U Drive w/ Driver All
Kinds Cars Van Revo Dly.
Wk.Mo. Rental 8023021-22

ABC RENT A CAR
NEW CARS & VANS
PAJERO • HI-ACE
REVO • VIOS • ALTIS • STAREX
CRLA • CRV • LYNX • 536-6822
303-9789 • 426-2278 • 426-4084

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 533-8254

1.5% Easy Carloan 7816352/65

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City
E-mail Address: ltombox@lto.gov.ph • Website: www.lto.gov.ph

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 009-2004

03 September 2004

TO : **All Regional/Assistant Directors**
Chiefs/OICs, District/Extension Offices
and Other Employees Concerned

SUBJECT : **Guidelines and Procedures in the Issuance of the 2004**
Optional Motor Vehicle Special Plates (OMVSP)

Pursuant to the provisions of Batas Pambansa Bilang 43, Batas Pambansa Bilang 74, and Republic Act No. 4136, and in view of the impending exhaustion of combinations of alphanumeric characters under the current format of license plates and as an additional source of revenue for the government, the following guidelines and procedures in the issuance of the 2004 Optional Motor Vehicle Special Plates are hereby promulgated for the guidance of all concerned:

Section 1. Background

The existing alpha-numeric numbering system currently being utilized for issuance of regular license plates to new motor vehicle registration is about to be depleted, especially those assigned to the National Capital Region, Region 3 and 4. Likewise, there has been increasing requests for specific alpha-numeric combinations for their plates. Hence, the introduction of a different sets of alpha-numeric combination system is needed.

Section 2. The 2004 Optional Motor Vehicle Special Plates (OMVSP)

The utilization of the 01-100 numeric characters to be matched to ALPHAS, as in three (3) letter and two (2)/three (3) number character combinations, for issuance to all regions, will solve the problem on depleted alpha-numeric character combinations.

Corollary to this, based on experience, Philippine motorists like those in other Asian countries choose preferred alpha-numeric characters for personal identification purposes. Accordingly, the issuance of the 01-100 numeric characters coupled with choice alphas provides a good opportunity for LTO to increase its revenue by setting aside a different pricing schemes for the said plates.

2.1 The letters "I", "O" and "Q" shall be considered since these letters have been issued as special license plates. Letter "O" should be changed to a different font so as not to confuse with number 0 (zero).

2.2 By utilizing letters "I", "O" and "Q" in the current and proposed format of pair series, the resulting supply will be sufficient to meet the needs of the LTO clientele.

2.3 As source of additional revenue, increased cost shall be collected for production of unissued motor vehicle license plates with choice characters such as triple-alpha; triple-numeric; numeric characters 168; any numeric combination with identical first and third characters i.e. 101 and 707; and any combinations not forming part of the regular series of license plates when requested for production by a motorist.

Section 3. Coverage

The motor vehicle special license plate consists of alpha-numeric combinations and is considered as a regular license plate (one pair). It is issued only upon application by the owner of a brand new private motor vehicle which is for **initial registration** with the Land Transportation Office. The units covered are as follows:

1.1 Cars
1.2 Sports Utility Vehicles (SUV)
1.3 Asian Utility Vehicles (AUV)
1.4 Sports Pick-up
1.5 Commuter Vans

Section 4. Exclusions

The following types of brand new motor vehicles shall not be covered for issuance of motor vehicle special license plates:

a. Public Utility Vehicles
b. Cargo Trucks (private/for hire)
c. Service Vehicle (Hotel limousines, tourist vehicles, rent-a-car, ambulance and funeral hearse)
d. Vintage Vehicle
e. Government Vehicle
f. Diplomatic/OEV
g. Used Imported/Surplus MV
h. More than four (4) wheel category

Section 5. Statistics on New Motor Vehicles for Registration

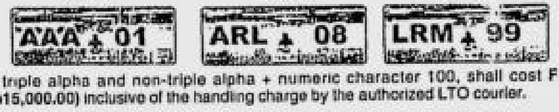
The yearly population of new motor vehicles for registration is approximately 130,000 to 150,000 vehicles. The additional numbering system herein set forth will augment the available alpha-numeric character combinations for these new units.

Section 6. Acquisition and Pricing Scheme

Under this program, the owner of the covered brand new motor vehicle may apply at any authorized LTO Regional/District Office or at the LTO Central Office for a pair of the 2004 Optional MV Special Plates for his unit under the following scheme:

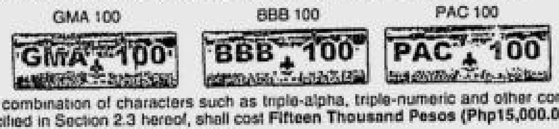
6.1 Any triple alpha and non-triple alpha + two (2) numeric character combinations 01-99, shall cost **Twenty Five Thousand Pesos (Php25,000.00)** inclusive of the handling charge by the authorized LTO courier.

Example: AAA 01 ARL 08 LRM 99



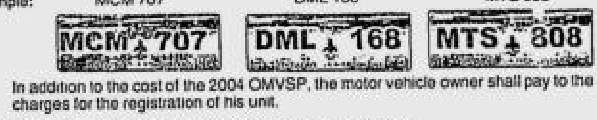
6.2 Any triple alpha and non-triple alpha + numeric character 100, shall cost **Fifteen Thousand Pesos (Php15,000.00)** inclusive of the handling charge by the authorized LTO courier.

Example: GMA 100 BBB 100 PAC 100



6.3 Any combination of characters such as triple-alpha, triple-numeric and other combination of characters as specified in Section 2.3 hereof, shall cost **Fifteen Thousand Pesos (Php15,000.00)** inclusive of the handling charge by the authorized LTO courier.

Example: MCM 707 DML 168 MTS 808



6.4 In addition to the cost of the 2004 OMVSP, the motor vehicle owner shall pay to the LTO the applicable fees and charges for the registration of his unit.

Section 7. Specifications for the Proposed Numbering Scheme

The 01-100 numbering scheme issuance, together with the preferred inscriptions involving alpha and numeric characters under the current plate format, shall be known as the **"2004 Optional Motor Vehicle Special Plates" (OMVSP)."** The OMVSP shall have the same color scheme (green embossed alpha-numeric and border, green slogan, Matatag na Republika and plate format of Center Rizal Monument full color graphics). The OMVSP is issued in pair and considered as a regular license plate. The quality and use of special font shall be adopted for purposes of this program.

Section 8. Suppletory and Superseded Guidelines

All related existing rules and regulations are incorporated by reference as integral part hereof and those in conflict herewith are deemed modified or superseded accordingly.

Section 9. Effectivity Clause

This **Administrative Order** shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspaper of general circulation and filing of three (3) copies thereof with the University of The Philippines Law Center.

Issued in Quezon City this 3rd day of September in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Four.

ANNELI R. LONTOC
Assistant Secretary

Approved:

LEANDRO R. MENDOZA
Secretary
Department of Transportation & Communications (DOTC)

(PDI-Sept 27 & 28, 2004)

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Cpr 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/out taking car 6557685

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BUY/SELL

CAP/PRUD PLANS GIE 7800106

CAP/TPG/PRUD Educ2528373

BUKIDNON FORESTS, INCORPORATED
(A Subsidiary of the Natural Resources Development Corporation)
BFI Compound, Sumpong, Malaybalay City
Telefax (088) 8132037 / (088) 221-2115

BULLETIN #1

BIDDING ON BENGUET PINE LOGS AT WHOLE LOT WITH AN APPROX. VOL OF 6,000 CU.M.

NOTICE TO ALL PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS

Please be informed that the schedules of the bidding as advertised on PDI and Mindanao Goldstar on Sept. 18, 19 & 20, 2004 has been postponed indefinitely.

(SGD) DENNIS N. RAMIREZ
BAC Chairman

(SGD) MANUEL M. CASIÑO
VP/General Manager

(PDI-Sept 28, 2004)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Control weight now 3758988

PETS

DOG TRAINER 0919-3419012

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

PHILIPPINE DOG SCHOOL
School that introduced Dog training in the Phil trainers are educated honest scientifically trained, trainings fully guaranteed your Dogs will obey off-leashed & even by signal only Call 721-3736

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

BUY • SELL • PAWN
SWISS WATCHES
AGENCIA de MAKATI-4587017
SECONDO AYALA CENTER-8940282
OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY
"PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE"
LOW 5% INTEREST

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

Best Deal In Town
BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
DIAMONDS/JEWELRY
Repair / Polish Any watch
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
Hyatt • 804-0484 / 834-2886
Mktl 893-0618 • G'hills 724-4374

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5833742 0917-8473744

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
0917-8142309 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

FILIPINAS PAWNSHOP INC., 1137 P. Gil St. Paco, Mla. Will sell all expired pledges of February and March 2004 on October 10, 2004, Sunday at 10:00a.m. Sons of J. Lanuza Auctioneer. (PDI-Sept. 28, 2004)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

CHRISTMAS is nr invest P8880 earn 20T/mo up 09178354797

earnextranow.com code:afb2004 8531008 09178901851 Arlene

EARN P10T up/week - HOW? share d biznez 0921-5914739

EXTRA INCOME 7126374

Inc Income PT upto 20T/mo3732531

top-nutrition-business.com

RTW Wholesaler 3738821

Since '98 the L88 Grp has helped thousands in Asia/ USA to set up global biz to create wealth that lasts. Details @ www.L88edc.com

Small Capital 0917-7499447

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

PHARMACIST • 639-4656

PROMO GIRLS FOR GMA PAMPANGA & BULACAN AREAS At least 5'2" good looking 527-1565 527-6418 / 09178730929

MALE/FEMALE

CAREGIVER T-5280747

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

BSP•BSN•PT•MT
Any Allied Health Grads up to P45T/ Mol 8922818

Exp. Rest Cook & Barmaid BF P'que 0919-5521961

Got a Phone? Earn up to P30,000/mo. Flexible Hrs w/Travel Opp. 8927828

Immediate Need of Tutor! Washington Tutorial 8290978

IN-HOUSE MARKETING
FREELANCE MARKETING
AGENTS for uniforms
843-7633/37; 843-7539

JANITRESS 9115997

JOB OPENING FOR VARIOUS POSITIONS FOR A HEALTH CLINIC W/ OR W/O EXPERIENCE PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR RESUME BEFORE SEPT. 30 FROM 10AM - 4PM MON - FRI AT LCS BLDG SOUTH SUPER HIGHWAY COR. SAN ANDRES AND DIAMANTE STS MANILA FOR INQUIRIES PLEASE CALL 5 6 1 8 0 8 8 FROM 10AM - 4PM MON-FRI LOOK FOR MS SUSAN

OFC MKTG STAFF 18/45 y/o Coll Level/Grad w/w/o exp START ASAP 9958582 Marlyn

OFC STAFF 09182027082 YVET

OFCSTF 09177351628 BETH

Optometrist
0917-8488291 • 721-4622

REAL ESTATE AGENTS MABUHAY CITY 0919-8804780

Right Away! Highly Enthusiastic & Result-Oriented MARKETING ASSISTANT T-9151390

MACTAN CEBU
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
LAPU-LAPU CITY PHILIPPINES

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Mactan-Cebu International Airport Authority (MCIAA) through its Bids and Awards Commitiee (BAC) with office at Mactan, Lapu lapu City invites all interested bidders to register and to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Design, Supply, Construction and Installation, inicuding Test and Commissioning of One (1) 5/6.25 MVA, 69/13.8 KV Power Substation with "SCADA" System for the Mactan-Cebu International Airport.
2. Approved Budget of the Contract (ABC) will be announce to all qualified bidders.
3. This shall be funded by the Mactan-Cebu International Airport Authority (MCIAA) as per approved budget for the Year 2004.
4. The winning Contractor shall complete the works within Two Hundreds Seventy (270) calendar days (9 months), counted from the date the winning Contractor received the Notice to Proceed.
5. Interested bidders who may apply for eligibility should be:
   a. Filipino Citizen with DTI Registered Business Name or SEC Registration Certificate whichever may be appropriate under the existing laws of the Philippines, with at least seventy five (75%) percent of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizen of the Philippines.
   b. Has Valid PCAB License, Specially Electrical Works, at least Category A, Electrical Works classified as Medium B on Electrical Works or Temporary Certificate of Renewal issued by PCAB. (In case of a joint venture, the joint venture should be properly licensed by PCAB as to the Category and Classification required by MCIAA).
   c. Has record of experience for the last three (3) calendar years or more as Main Contractor of a 69kv (and above) Power Substraction Project with "SCADA" System. The contractors single largest contract which is similar and complexity to the project to be bid must be at least 50% of the Approved Budget of the Contract (ABC).
   d. Capable of Turn Key Basis Project (meaning the contract amount is payable in full 15 days after date of completion and acceptance of the project or whatever is stipulated in the contract.) No mobilization fee.
   e. Registered with PS-DBM in order to participate in the procurement activities of G-EPS.
6. For proper guidance interested bidders who may apply for eligibility must secure a copy of Eligibility Screening Documents from BAC Secretariat after payment of Non Refundable Fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) per copy.
7. Issuance of Eligibility Screening Documents will start September 22, 2004 until October 1, 2004 at BAC office.
8. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Forms, Documents, Statements and Contract's License not later than October 8, 2004 at BAC office.
9. Date of issuance of Notice of Eligibility/Ineligibility will be October 15, 2004.
10. Distribution of Bid Documents will be on October 18, 2004 until October 22, 2004 at BAC office during office hours upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P11,500.00 per copy.
11. Date and time of Pre Bid Conference will be on October 27, 2004, at 10:00 AM at BAC office.
12. Date and time of Bid Opening will be on November 10, 2004 at 10:00 AM at BAC office.
13. Competitive bidding will be conducted in accordance with RA 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and its IRR and other applicable Government Laws, Act, Order, i.e., RA 4566 (Contractor's Law), RA 8792 (Electronic Commerce Act).
14. For more information, please contact the BAC Secretariat at telephone nos. 340-2486 loc 2050. Facsimile no. 341-4617 or check our website www.mactan-cebu-airport.com.ph.

(Sgd.) MARCELINO A. CORDOVA
Acting General Manager

(PDI--Sept. 21 & 28, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development – V
BICOL MEDICAL CENTER
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Naga City
☎ 811-7802 loc. 36 • 📠 473-8936; 473-2334

14 September 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
No. 2004-05
PROCUREMENT OF VARIOUS PHARMACEUTICALS

1. The Bicol Medical Center (BMC) intends to apply the sum of TWENTY THREE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTY FOUR THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY FOUR PESOS & 22/100 (Php23,834,984.22) chargeable against the Government of the Philippines (GOP) Funds for the Procurement of Various Pharmaceuticals.
2. The Bicol Medical Center (BMC) now invites sealed Bids from eligible suppliers/manufacturers and exclusive distributors of drugs who are qualified to participate for the Procurement of Various Pharmaceuticals. Copies of the List of Various Pharmaceuticals, with specifications and quantities are available at the BAC Secretariat c/o Supply Section, Bicol Medical Center, Naga City.
3. Delivery of the aforesaid goods shall be within **FIFTEEN (15) working days** upon receipt of the approved Purchase Orders (POs). The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Clause 5, Section I, Instructions to Bidders.
4. Eligibility of prospective Bidders to participate will be based on compliance to eligibility requirements, using pass/fail non-discretionary criteria, as specified in the Implemgnting Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (RA 9184), *The Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA)*, and is open to all organizations with at least sixty (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. The process for eligibility check is described in Clause 12 Section II of the Instructions to Bidders. In accordance with the IRR-A of RA 9184, only those Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check shall be opened and the Purchase Order (PO) awarded to the Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid, provided the Bidder concerned passes the post qualification process.
5. Interested Bidders who wish to inspect the Bidding Documents and obtain further information should contact the BAC Secretariat c/o Supply Section, Bicol Medical Center, Naga City, Telephone No. 473-2334; 473-89-36, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 P.M., Mondays to Fridays.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders, from **September 21 to October 22, 2004**, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (PhP2,000.00) and submission of a written application to the following address:

   Dr. RODOLFO C. URSUA
   Chairman
   Bids and Awards Committee
   Bicol Medical Center
   Naga City

7. The BMC shall hold a Pre Bid Conference open to all interested parties, on **October 22, 2004** at 9:00 a.m., at the Auditorium, Bicol Medical Center, Naga City.
8. Bids must be delivered to the above address on **November 4, 2004** not later than 9:00 a.m., at the Auditorium. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount at least equal to and not lower than, a percentage of the approved budget, in any of the following forms/terms.
   a) Cash, certified check, cashier's/manager's check
   Bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit — One Percent (1%)
   b) Bank Guarantee — One & A Half Percent (1-1/2%)
   c) GSIS Surety Bond — Two & A Half Percent (2-1/2%)
9. The BMC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to issuance of Purchase Order (PO) without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) RODOLFO C. URSUA, MD, FPCS, FPUA
Medical Specialists II and Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – September 22 & 28, 2004)

MOA SIGNING
China Chongqing (Philippine) Trade Expo 2004 World Trade Center (Sept. 29 - Oct. 1, 2004) (L-R) Standing Knox Coeli, Consultant, PepGroup Inc (organizer), Anna Xiang, Asst to GM, Chongqing Heaven Best. (L-R) Sitting Randy Manaloto, V.P., PepGroup Inc. Zhang Min, G.M., Chongqing Heaven Best Corp.

VMC starts milling operations

VICTORIAS Milling Company, Inc. (VMC) will start today its milling operations for Crop Year 2004-2005. Cane acceptance starts at 8 a.m. Refining operations, on the other hand, began last September 22. This crop year, VMC aims to mill 2.7 million to 3.2 million tons of cane and produce 6.8 million LKG of refined sugar. Crop Year 2004-2005 is the second year of the company's 15-year rehabilitation plan.

Last crop year was the first full year of VMC's rehab plan where debt service payments made to bank and trade creditors reached approximately P535 million. Crop Year 2003-2004 was also the third consecutive year where VMC broke its all time records in cane tonnage and raw sugar production. Refined sugar produced last crop year was also the highest in the last ten years or since Crop Year 1994-95. Canes milled reached 2,972,169 gross tonnes cane while raw sugar produced was 5,841,455 LKG. Refined sugar, on the other hand, reached 6,505,034 LKG.

National Sales Rally / Sales Empowerment

DON'T miss the National Sales Rally dubbed as Sales Empowerment to be held on Oct. 26, 2004, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Holiday Inn Galleria. This is the gathering of sales people from different companies to recharge their batteries, enhance their motivation and selling skills to radically improve their sales performance. Among the topics are: Latest Marketing Trends and Insights; Major Account Management; the 7 Secrets of Samurai Selling; The Selling Success Philosophy; Killer Tips to Make a Presentation; Unconventional Ways to Handle Objections and Close More Sales. The host for this event is Porter and Miles, Inc., a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development, with office address at Suite 2502-C Tektite Tower East, Ortigas Center. You may call Mercy at 638-7719/20 for more information / registration. Sponsors for this national event include the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Business World, Holiday Inn Galleria, HRPhilippines, Bioessence, BusinessWeek, Grolier, Trabaho.Com, and UKDERM Pharma.

OBITUARIES

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Gen. PAULINO E. SANCHEZ

PMA Class '43

who peacefully joined our Lord and his wife Leah
on Sept. 15, 2004 at the age of 86

wish to express our most profound gratitude
and sincerest appreciation to all our relatives and friends
who offered prayers, masses, messages of sympathy,
sent flowers and mass cards, donations, spent their precious
time with us, attended the funeral rites and expressed
in many other ways their love, concern and support
during our time of greatest sorrow.

JOSE "PEPE" OPPUS MANDING

(April 21, 1913 - September 25, 2004)

Has joined his wife "Mary" at the age of 91,
to peacefully rest in the loving embrace of our Lord.

His bereaved children **Evelyn, Yolanda & Ernesto Albano, Valentino,** and **Marilyn & Mario Poirier**, his grandchildren **Johann, Jonathan, Paul,** and **Brian**, and his niece **Olivia Ang** request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains will be at Don Bosco - Charity Chapel, along Pasay Road, Makati City, starting September 27, 2004 (Monday).

Cremation will be on October 2, 2004 (Saturday) at 11:00 a.m. after a 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass at Don Bosco. Interment of his cremated remains will be at the Risen Christ Memorial Garden, within the St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish grounds, Magallanes Village.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
— 2 Corinthians 5:8

In Loving Memory
on the **2nd Death Anniversary**
of our beloved

JULIA ONG PACO

of Chingkang, China and Davao City
July 16, 1934 - September 28, 2002

Family and friends request
the pious readers to pray for the
eternal repose of her soul.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the Death of his Saints."
Psalm 116:15

(Ret.) JUDGE FLORESTINA EALA EGIPTO

of San Esteban, Ilocos Sur and Alicia, Isabela

has peacefully joined her Creator
on September 24, 2004 at the age of 82.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz in 143 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Necrological Service will be on September 29, 2004 at 8:00 a.m. and Interment will be at 10:00 a.m. at Holy Cross Memorial Park, in Novaliches, Quezon City.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
• DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 897-8425 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8978425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 522-4406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
"The newly opened Mortuary & Crematory at the Heritage Park"
Memorial Park
Mortuary
Viewing Chapels
Crematory
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Trunk Line: (632) 845-2334 to 38

The **NEGROS NAVIGATION** family mourns the passing of
it's former President and General Manager,

"DITOS"

CONRADO ARTIAGA CARBALLO
(November 4, 1944 – September 26, 2004)

who peacefully joined his creator on the 26th day of September, 2004
at the age of 59.

You will forever remain in our hearts, and will always be missed...
Your 29 years of dedicated service to the company will never be forgotten.
We have looked up to you as a shining example of leadership and commitment to service.
For the lessons you have taught us, for the memories we have shared...

We will be forever thankful.

He is survived by his wife, Victoria (Entang),
daughter Deanna and son-in-law Enrique Bautista; sons Javi and Carlo, and his grandchild, Diego.

His ashes lie in state at Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati. Interment will be on Wednesday, September 29, 2004, 8 AM at Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park.

In Loving Memory
On the 1st Death Anniversary of

Josefa dela Rama Alunan

September 29, 2004

Holy Masses will be offered in her memory
on September 29, 2004 at the following churches:

Sacred Heart Parish	*Welfareville, Mandaluyong City*	6:00 a.m.
Mary The Queen Parish	*Little Baguio, San Juan, M.M*	6:00 a.m.
Santuario De San Jose	*Greenhills, San Juan, M.M*	7:15 a.m.
San Miguel Pro-Cathedral	*Gen. Solano, San Miguel, Manila*	7:00 a.m.
Our Lady of Sorrow Parish	*F.B. Harrison St., Pasay City*	6:00 a.m.
San Felipe Neri Parish	*City of Mandaluyong*	6:00 p.m.
Don Bosco Makati	*Pasay Road, City of Makati*	6:00 p.m.
Saint Andrew Parish	*Bel-Air, City of Makati*	6:00 p.m.
Santuario de San Antonio	*Forbes Park, City of Makati*	6:00 p.m.
St. Alphonsus Mary de Ligouri Church	*Magallanes Village, City of Makati*	6:00 p.m.
St. Sebastian Cathedral	*Bacolod City*	7:00 a.m.
Sacred Heart Shrine	*Bacolod City*	6:00 a.m.
San Antonio Parish	*Bacolod City*	7:00 a.m.
Mary Queen of Peace	*Bacolod City*	5:30 p.m.
Oratory of St. Nicolas of Tolentine	*Bacolod City*	6:00 p.m.

Her family request relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul..

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

CO SIOK HIAN LAO

(Wife of the late Luis Co Chi Kiat)

who peacefully joined her Creator
last September 14, 2004

would like to express our deepest gratitude to our relatives, friends, staff and business associates who offered prayers, masses, messages of sympathy, sent flowers, mass cards or donations to the Luis Co Chi Kiat Foundation, spent their precious time with us, attended the funeral, and in many countless ways showed us their genuine care and support in our time of bereavement.

Our most heartfelt appreciation.

Please continue to remember our beloved **Mommy** through your prayers.

Banks seeking flexibility to hedge T-bills, T-bonds

By Doris C. Dumlao

BANKERS have asked the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to give them the flexibility to hedge their portfolios of Treasury bills and bonds in order to help deepen the capital markets.

In an interview with INQUIRER, Association Cambiste International Philippine chapter president Marcelo Ayes said Philippine banks would be able to better manage their exposures if they were allowed to engage in interest rates derivatives.

"If interest rates are going down and your portfolio is locked in, it is favorable for you because your holdings of debt papers carry higher rates," Ayes said.

"But if interest rates are going up, you lose because your holdings are locked in a fixed rate, so you would want to take a short position," he said. "These are like interest rate futures."

He noted the BSP's existing rules provided that only banks with expanded derivatives license could engage even in simple hedging mechanisms such as interest rate swaps.

Derivatives refer to sophisticated hedging instruments whose values are based on the value of an underlying good or instrument.

Interest rate swap is a derivative instrument which involves an exchange of two debt obligations that have different payment streams. The transaction usually exchanges two parallel loans: one fixed the other floating.

Ayes said there were only about 13 banks in the country which had existing expanded derivatives license, and even these were allowed only to handle interest rate swaps.

"The BSP, in its circular, should allow all banks to hedge provided the banks get their clearance for every transaction," Ayes said.

PPA posts ₱1.2B in net income

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINE Ports Authority has reported a net income of P1.22 billion in the first half, up 33 percent from P918 million a year ago, as revenue rose 3 percent while expenses dropped by almost 14 percent.

PPA general manager Oscar Sevilla yesterday said the maritime agency would definitely surpass its full-year profit target of P1.38 billion given the strong performance in the first semester.

The six-month income even exceeded the agency's internal target of P1.054 billion. Revenue from January to June reached P2.7 billion, up from P2.63 billion a year ago. Expenses dropped by P233 million from P1.72 billion last year.

The PPA is tasked to operate government-owned ports, help regulate the maritime industry and put up more ports to improve the flow of goods and services. The maritime agency is one of the government's big revenue earners in terms of fees collected from foreign vessel that dock in local ports.

A big part of the PPA's earnings come from the South and the North Harbor.

"We get a lion's share in the income from the operations of arrastre contractors. We also get a lot from ship calls," said Sevilla.

Last year, more than 300,000 ships docked in the country's ports.

The agency is projecting a 64-percent growth in its net income this year to P1.38 billion, from P847.3 million in 2003. Revenue from port operations this year is expected to go up to P5.5 billion from P5.4 billion last year and expenses are seen to drop by 10 percent to P4.12 billion, from P4.22 billion in 2003.

All PPA ports have fully complied with the new global standards on safety and security outlined by the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code, according to Sevilla.

FDC selling holdings in Hocheng firms

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

GOTIANUN-LED holding firm Filinvest Development Corp. (FDC) is selling its stakes in the local affiliates of Taiwanese sanitary wares company Hocheng to Ritiboon International Ltd., another shareholders of the Hocheng group.

The move will allow FDC to concentrate on its core businesses such as property development and banking, well-informed sources said.

Sources could not immediately disclose FDC's selling price for the Hocheng stake.

Sources said FDC had agreed to sell its 25-percent stake in manufacturing firm Hocheng Philippines Corp. and its 60-percent in Hocheng Philippines Property, the owner of a Cavite property where the Hocheng factory is located.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, FDC said its board had confirmed accepting the offer of Ritiboon to buy the stake. The FDC board has authorized its president Josephine Yap and board director Mercedes Gotianun to represent the company in the deal and to execute and deliver the documents to complete the acquisition.

Hocheng Philippines exports to Asia, Middle East and the United States.

FDC has been into real estate development since 1967 through Filinvest Land Inc.

FDC has interests in residential property development, commercial property development, banking and financial services through East West Bank and information technology.

YOUR PROBLEM:
HEAVY HAIR LOSS

SVENSON'S HAIR LOSS Rx:
Total Hair Revitalization Program

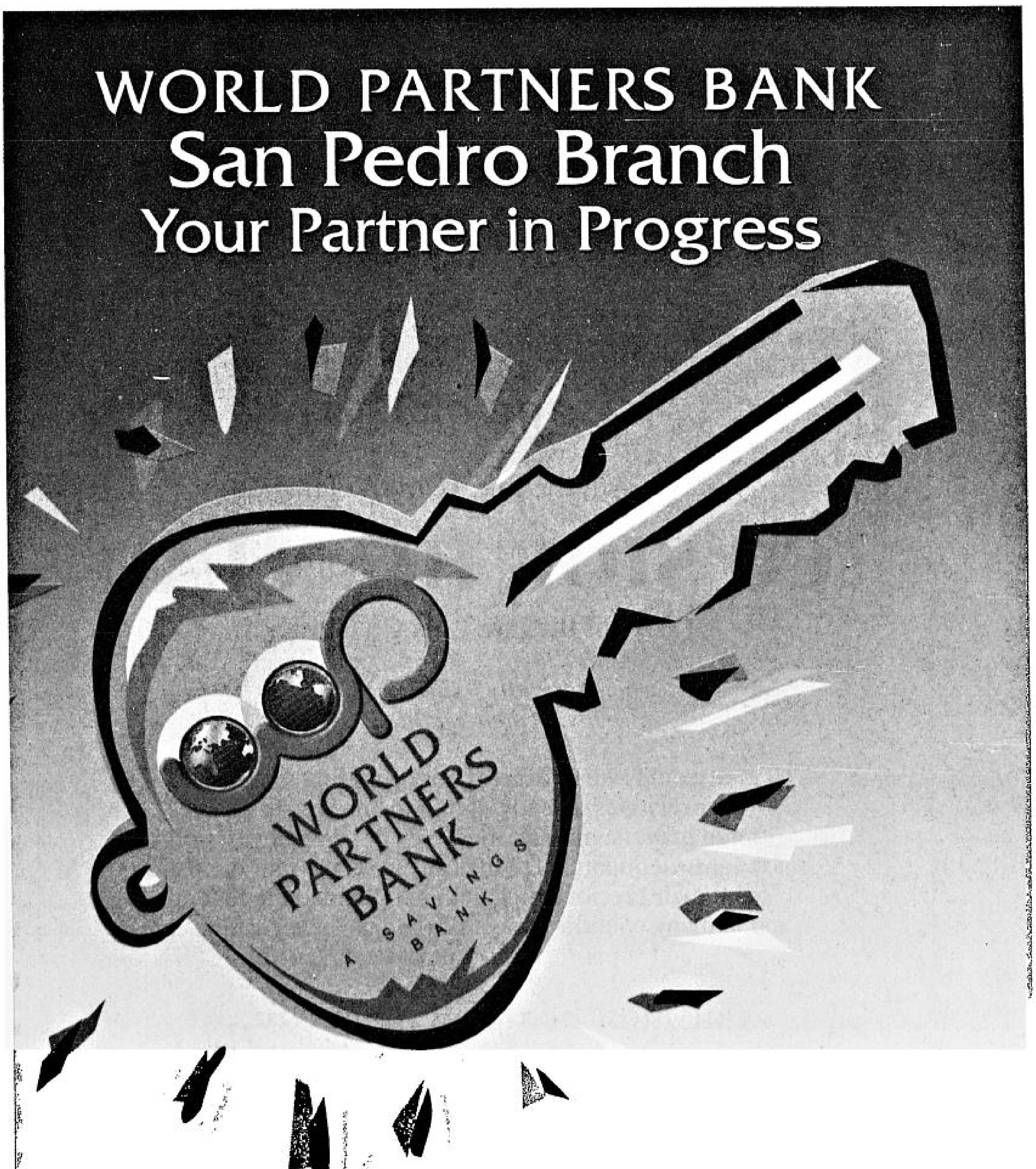
Your hairline is rising. Your thick hair is thinning out. If you don't want to end up bald, what are you going to do about it? Take control of your heavy hair loss now at **Svenson International**. Our **Total Hair Revitalization Program** is a comprehensive system of treatments that will eliminate the main cause of receding and thinning hair. It can also hasten the re-growth process by increasing the amount of cells for longer, stronger-growing hair.

You don't have to suffer from receding and thinning. Take the Svenson solution for your heavy hair loss and look forward to a thicker, fuller look. Call Svenson for a FREE hair and scalp check-up.

Svenson
INTERNATIONAL
YOUR CHOICE NOT TO BE BALD

CALL 892-HAIR (4247)

MAKATI 16/F GT Tower
QUEZON CITY 4/F Cedar Exec. Bldg.
BINONDO 11/F Federal Tower Bldg.
ALABANG 4/F Citibank-Frabelle Bldg.
CEBU TEL: 234-0851 7/F Keppel Centre



The new World Partners Bank.

Now open in San Pedro, Laguna.

At your service for your banking

needs. Working hand-in-hand

with the Filipino towards

a progressive future.

Products and Services:
Savings Account • Checking / Current Account • Time Deposit • Payroll Account

WORLD PARTNERS BANK
A SAVINGS BANK

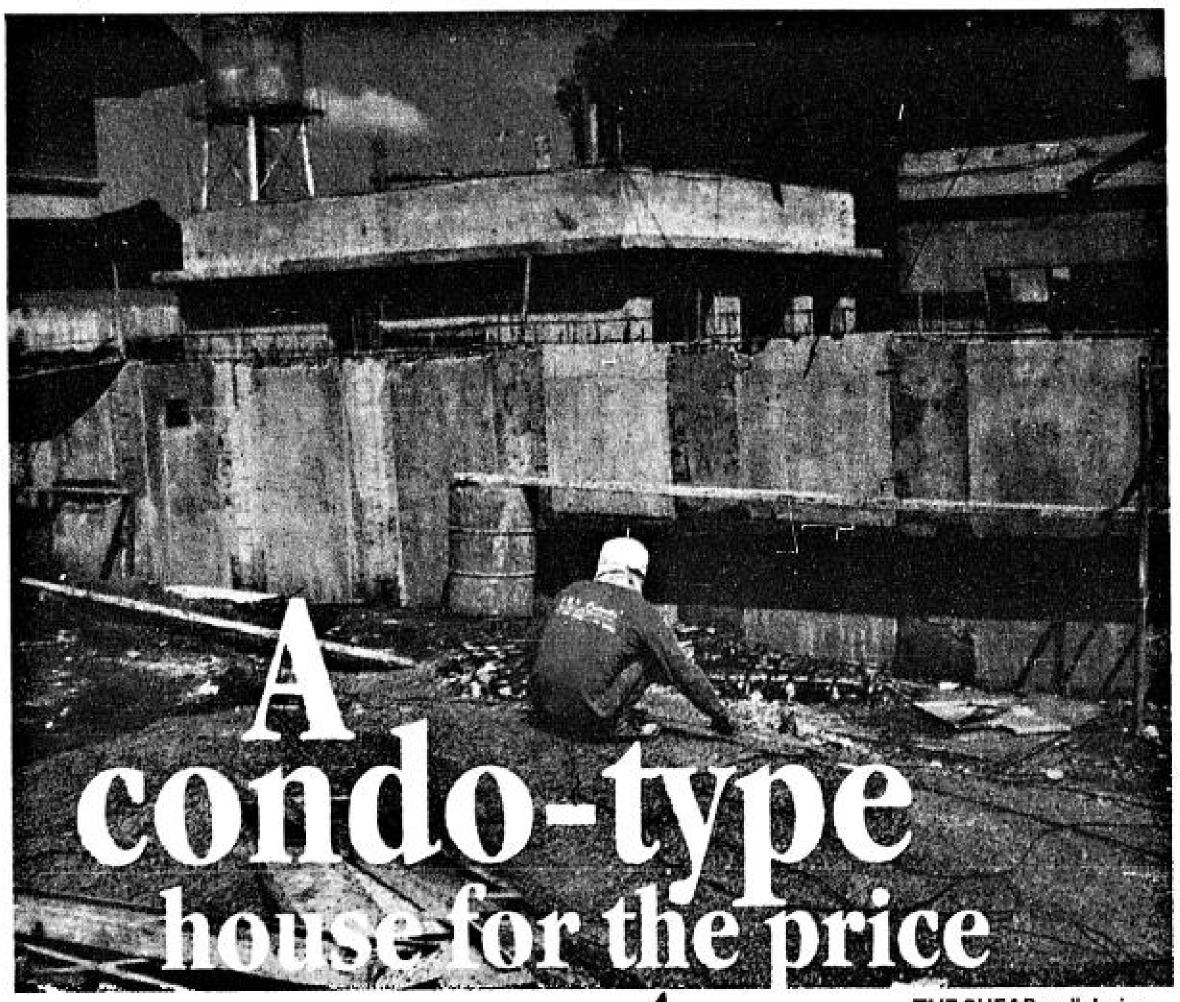
72 Mabini St., San Pedro, Laguna Tel # 868-7521/868-7585/868-8167/868-7474 Fax # 868-4688

E-mail: pr_real_estate@inquirer.com.ph

REAL ESTATE

Text us your feedback: inquirer re name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**



A condo-type house for the price of a scooter

THE SHEAR wall design could form a condo unit, a house or an "upgraded" squatter's home.

By Tessa R. Salazar

ARCHITECT Jose Guevarra Casus, 73, is a new resident in upscale subdivision Hillsborough south of Manila.

When the INQUIRER visited his home on Saturday, it was found where Casus' heart really belonged. According to him, for the longest time, he had been designing a low-cost condo-type unit suitable and affordable for the poor.

From within the 400 square-meter property where his new house was being built (beside the 500-sq-m three-story property of his daughter), a 20-sq-m mini office looking like a stand-alone condominium unit also stood, and it was where he directed our focus on.

'Shear wall' design

To the trained architect, the structure used the "shear wall" design—a generic structure that did away with beams and posts normally used for factories and schools.

This time, however, Casus used the design for a small structure that he thought would be ideal for socialized housing in an urban setting where lot sizes are limited. For this design, he estimated the cost at P4,000 per square meter for a cluster of 100 units (single-level detached houses) or P80,000 per unit.

The cost could also be brought down, he said, if more than 100 units would be built.

He added that one would also do away with contractor's profit, developer's profit and VAT if it is done and project managed by Casus. "It takes out 27 percent of the total project cost," he said.

Speed of construction

This condo-type house can be finished in seven days with no need for replastering *(palitada)*. This includes the paint jobs and concrete roofing already.

The shear wall design—defining the no-post no-beam structure—is nothing new. Many construction firms used this design but their systems of forms *(molds or hulmaan)* are big and rely on heavy equipment. Some firms even spend millions of pesos for this.

Casus said his team devised a way to innovate the shear wall design specially for mass housing. The metal form of the design is now only six inches wide and three meters long, which could be handled by a single worker. This explains the speed of construction.

Now called the C-form (for Casus technology), its patent holder is Casus' structural engineer Estelo Tumblod. The design does away with heavy equipment, and the form is easy to buy from hardware stores.

Said Casus: "The design for building houses can now be carried out in the countryside. The forms can be easily transported."

He also explained that concrete roofs are cheaper than GI sheets and wood cast. They are durable, and since they are made of concrete, never rust and cool down the interior spaces below.

The concrete roof deck could also be used as additional work space for occupants. The design allows for vertical expansion of up to four floors.

Building on the next floors can be started the day after the first floor is finished. However, building on higher floors would cost 20 percent more because of the added reinforcements at the ground level.

'Matchbox' design

"The cast-in-place structure is reinforced concrete based on 'shear wall' design. The walls support each other such as what happens in a matchbox. If you take one wall off a matchbox, it will collapse. But four walls together will hold about 10 times its load," said Casus.

He said the process of building this design involves pouring concrete into two separate metal forms, while reinforcing bars run between the two metal forms.

The concrete is steam cured, and on the same day, as the concrete hardens, the metal is taken out. The concrete wall can then stand by itself. And because the structure is molded, no plaster *(palitada)* is needed. Workers can paint the wall right away.

"Plastering can cost another 20 percent of building expenses," Casus said. This poured concrete method, Casus said, "is stronger than normal concrete because the spacing of the steel is economical. There are no posts, no beams.

Even during earthquakes, this struc-

A CONDO/ C2

JOIN

THE 2004 SHDA-HUDCC
NATIONAL DEVELOPERS
CONVENTION

October 26-27, 2004 * Shangri-la Hotel, Makati City

MAS MARAMING PABAHAY...
MAS MARAMING HANAPBUHAY!

OPEN TO ALL Developers, Contractors, Realtors and Brokers, Bankers, Housing Finance Institutions, Government Housing Agencies, Planners, Architects, Engineers and other Allied Industries

MODULE TOPICS:
* Trends and Macro Perspectives on Urban Development
* Sustainable Financing for the Housing Sector
* Marketing Strategies for OFWs
* Price Stabilization of Construction Materials
* Potentials and Business Opportunities from the Philippine Retirement Program
* Fast Tracking Permits and Licenses
* Report on Housing Deliveries
* Dialogue with Key Shelter Agencies

INVITED SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOR:
HER EXCELLENCY
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

For particulars please call:
SHDA Secretariat at Tel Nos. 899-8275 / 890-0323 / 890-7031 to 32
or (0917) 899-4589 * e-mail us at shda@mozcom.com

Organized by:
The Subdivision and Housing Developers Association, Inc.
In Cooperation with the
Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council

How would you like
to erase ₱1,000,000
from your housing loan?

Join the BPI Family
Savings Bank

ERASE your HOUSING LOAN Promo

Get the chance to erase ₱100,000,
₱250,000, ₱500,000
or even ₱1,000,000
from your Happy Family Housing Loan!

Promo runs from July 1 to December 15, 2004 only!
Call 845-6888 or 89-100
Log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com
Visit any BPI, BPI Family Savings Bank branch
or Express Banking Center nationwide.

Visit the BPI Family
Village in Selected
Branches

Get to meet our partner-developers from September 27 to October 1
and find out more about the property you wish to buy through
BPI Family Savings Bank Housing Loan.
Plus! Enjoy discounts or freebies when you purchase during this week.

- BPI Family Savings Bank BF President's Avenue
- BPI Family Savings Bank Shaw Kapitolyo
- BPI M.H. del Pilar
- BPI San Pedro
- BPI Sta. Rosa

*Apply for a Happy Family Housing Loan now and enjoy
low monthly amortization, fast approvals
and expert loan advice.*

BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK
BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

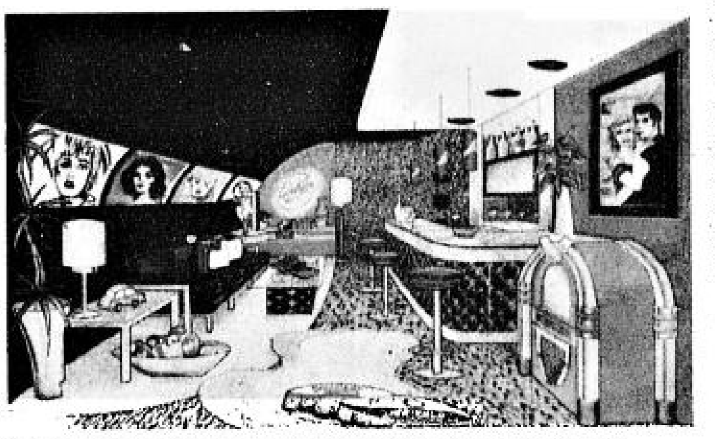
HAPPY FAMILY
HOUSING LOAN
It's All in the Family!

Per DTI [illegible] Permit No. 1211, Series of 2004

Movie-inspired living spaces

POPCORN: The PSID Goes to the Movies will open to the public from Oct. 3 to 31 at the 4th Level, Paseo Center (formerly IBM Building), Salcedo Village, Makati City.

It marks the culmination of years of studies and hard work, and months of preparation—from conceptualization to construction and to putting the final touches—of the country's new breed of movers and shakers in the interior design field.



"THE JUKEBOX" is designed by PSID's Karol Antonio, Monica Cordero Rona Galicano and Aira Mangaran.

26 booths

The exhibit of the Interior Design Class 2004 will feature 26 different booths that will showcase living spaces whose designs were inspired by the stories, the images, the music and the personages from the world of cinema.

The design event is divided into several categories that pay tribute to the colorful, wild and sometimes wacky world of film. They are Song and Dance for musicals, Kidstuff for animated films, Reality Check for sci-fi thrillers and adventure, Star Power for films starring big-name international stars; and Encore for critically acclaimed movies.

Film-inspired design

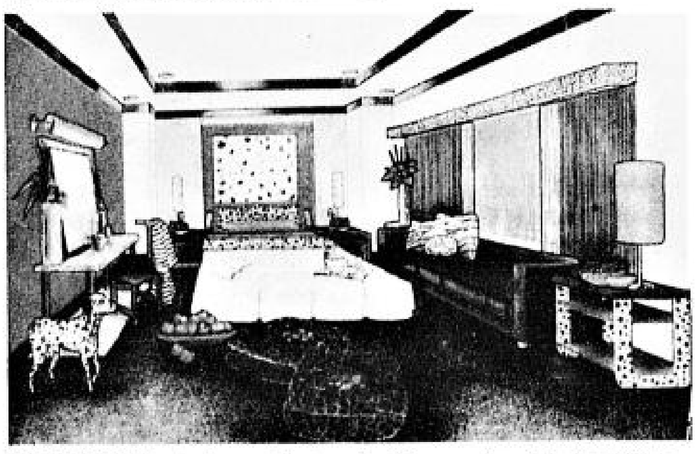
This year's PSID annual exhibit will take its audience from acclaimed Oscar winners to box office blockbusters, from fantasy films to musicals. In one rare occasion, the public will be able to take a journey through time in this highly anticipated celebration of the fusion of pop culture with interior design, resulting in living spaces transformed right out of the silver screen. Although specially designed and stylized, trendy and imaginative, all the featured rooms are practical and very functional.

"Chicago," "Moulin Rouge" and "Grease" comprise the films under Song and Dance. "Chicago" is the award-winning 2002 film adaptation of the hit Bob Fosse Broadway musical. It stars Catherine Zeta-Jones, Renée Zellweger and Richard Gere. A musical fantasy about love and inspiration, "Moulin Rouge" directed by Baz Luhrmann, is set in the infamous, dangerous and glamorous Parisian nightclub of the same name. "Grease," of course featured John Travolta and Olivia Newton John in the late 1970s.

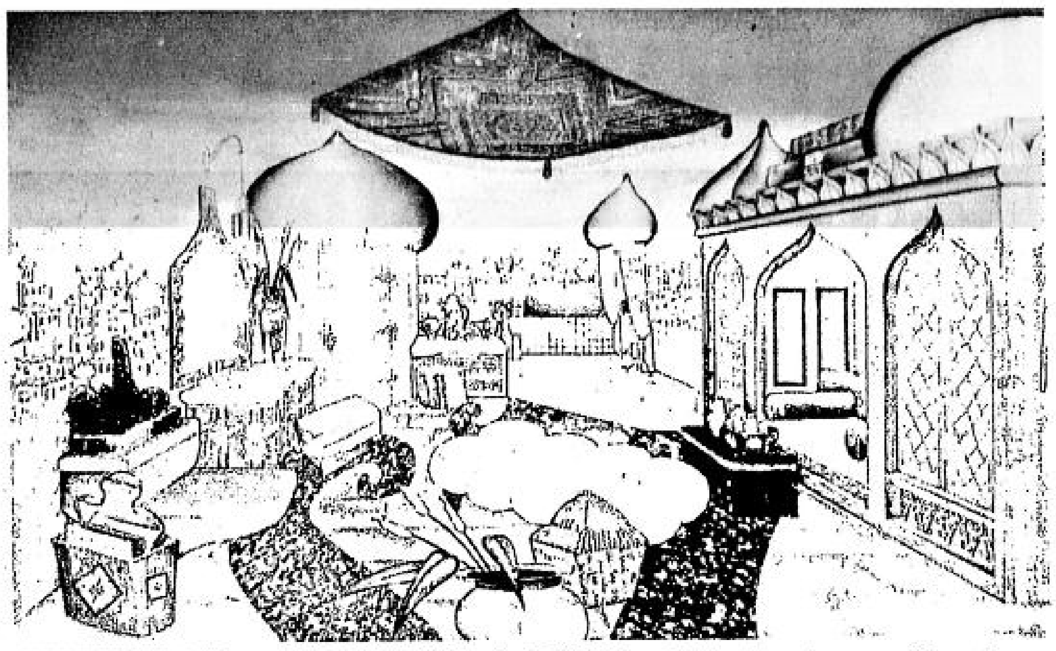
Young kids and those young at heart will have a ball with "Kidstuff." Among the films from which the PSID student-designers took inspiration from were: "Pirates of the Caribbean," "The Wizard of Oz," "Ice Age," "Aladdin" and "101 Dalmatians."

"Pirates of the Caribbean," the surprise hit of 2003 starring Johnny Depp tells the story of Pirate Jack Sparrow who sets out to save a governor's daughter from his fellow pirates. On the other hand, "The Wizard of Oz" is a 1939 musical fantasy film based on L. Frank Baum's turn-of-the-century children's story.

"Ice Age," the 2002 smash animated hit traces the tale of a rag-tag band made up of a saber-tooth tiger, a sloth and a wooly mammoth who find a lost human infant, and their attempt to return him to his tribe. Also, who can forget Cruella deVille of "101 Dalmatians" who kidnapped puppies to kill them for their fur, only to have various animals gang up against her and get their revenge in slapstick fashion?



"101 SUITE" is a bedroom that exudes the mood and the feel of the film. It was designed by PSID's Gerry Gonzales and Barbara Lozano.



"JASMINE'S Vanity" is a toilet and bath designed by PSID's Diane Aldaba, Anne Aragones, Mayumi Bilgera, Kat Cardenas and Smile Sakdalan is Moorish in mood, whimsical in appeal.

Other themes

Reality Check includes films that spurred a cult following like "The Lord of the Rings," "Lara Croft: The Tomb Raider" and "The Matrix." "Lord of the Rings" is both a box-office hit and an award-winning film trilogy that features the story of the battle for middle earth. Based on the popular video game, "Lara Croft: The Tomb Raider," follows the adventures of Lara Croft, an antiquities hunter-for-hire, while "The Matrix," the 1999 groundbreaking movie that spawned a new age of special effects.

Star Power focuses on films with big-name international actors and actresses in the lead role. In the 1999 film "The Mummy," Brendan Fraser stars as an American serving in the French Foreign Legion who, on an archeological dig at the ancient city of Hamunaptra accidentally awakens the Mummy. Hollywood A-list actors Tom Cruise and Brad Pitt star in "Interview with the Vampire," a chilling tale of a vampire's epic life story filled with love, betrayal, loneliness and hunger.

Recent hit film "Troy" stars Brad Pitt, Orlando Bloom and rumored next James Bond Eric Bana. It is an adaptation of Homer's great epic that follows the assault on Troy by the united Greek forces and chronicles the fates of the men involved. "Dracula," the 1992 movie version directed by Francis Ford Copolla starring Keanu Reeves and Winona Ryder, is closely based on Bram Stoker's classic novel.

There's also the Leonardo di Caprio starrer "The Beach," which is about a young American's travels to Asia in his attempt to run away from responsibility and mainstream society. "Austin Powers," the blockbuster 1992 film starring stand-up comedian turned movie actor Mike Myers, is the rollicking story of Dr. Evil's return from space.

PSID's graduating class also get to design a living space inspired by "Legally Blonde," the 2001 film that secured Reese Witherspoon's place among Hollywood's new roster of young leading actresses. "Down with Love" transports movie buffs to New York City in 1962 when love blossoms between a journalist and a feminist advice author.

Critical acclaim is the theme behind Encore, which includes "Lawrence of Arabia," "Cleopatra," "The Count of Monte Cristo," "Frida," "Breakfast at Tiffany's" and "Anna and the King."

"Lawrence of Arabia is based on the biography of T. E. Lawrence, the young lieutenant who manages to get a job as an observer with Prince Feisal, the leader of an Arab tribal army. "Cleopatra," the 1963 film that turned Elizabeth Taylor into a big screen legend, is the story of the famed Queen of the Nile.

"Breakfast at Tiffany's" is the 1962 Audrey Hepburn starrer where she plays Holly Golightly, while "Anna and the King" tells the romantic story of the King of Siam (now Thailand) and the widowed British schoolteacher Ana Leonowens during the 1860s.

These and more will come alive in the year's biggest design spectacle that will be open to the public during the month of October.

Serendra: Mid-rise condo building set in a garden

HAVE you ever imagined that it could be possible for you to live in a condominium building and still be able to enjoy your own garden? "The concept is a mid-rise condominium building set in a garden," Leandro "Andy" Locsin Jr. remarked.

Locsin's architectural firm, LV Locsin Partners, is the architectural consultant for Serendra, the newest residential community development of Ayala Land Inc. and Community Innovations Inc. at the Bonifacio Global City.

Low-density community

Set on a 12-hectare development site, Serendra is envisioned to be a low-density residential community with a cluster of low- to mid-rise sections surrounded by open spaces, greenery and landscaping that will occupy as much as two-thirds or about 65 percent of the total area.

"I think the developers are trying to break new ground in terms of a new typology for condominium design," Locsin noted, "with a very high degree of civic-mindedness about the environment, about not overbuilding, and being quite generous about gardens. I suppose you would feel much more human in a place like this."

"One of the primary objectives of the project was not to go fully high-rise," Locsin explained, "much like what you see in many European cities where mid-rise apartments have a much more human scale as opposed to the gigantic towers where you feel very detached from the ground. In this particular project, one of the points of reference was really for the buyer or the resident to feel that somehow they were attached to the garden below."

Most prominent feature

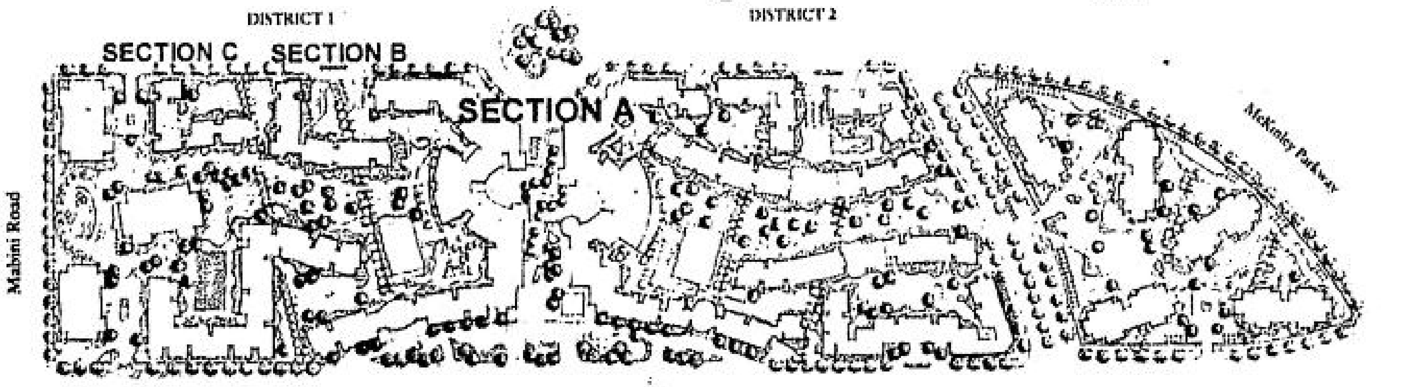
"The garden became a very prominent feature of the whole development, pocket gardens and then the main garden in the center," Locsin remarked. Garden-level units open out to the main gardens and terraces where you can enjoy your coffee at sunrise or cocktails in the evenings.

Or if your unit is in a higher floor, you only have to go down a few flights and out into the yard, like what you might do if you lived in a house with a backyard, where you can kick a ball around or jump in a pool.

Serendra's master plan followed European building tradition characterized by multilevel housing units that afford residents different kinds of views and wide, open spaces.

Making Serendra special

"Section A, in both districts of the development, go from four stories to nine stories," Locsin explained, "while Sections B and C of District 1 will have from nine to about 17 stories. When you look at the entire area in elevation, the building starts at a very low level where the retail area is at the center, and then sort of bend up on both sides. The building gets exponentially higher as you go outward. There is recognition that the property is high value and people who will buy and build in the surrounding areas are not going to put low buildings. So it will be surrounded by tall buildings, making Serendra even more special, with its low- to mid-rise feature as a very strong selling point."



THE MASTERPLAN of Serendra

Asian-Filipino theme

Serendra was designed by Santa Monica-based Moore Ruble & Yudell Architects (MRY). The award-winning firm was chosen for the way they handled densities in their developments, the curvilinear and serpentine buildings, the open spaces, and the clustering of buildings around these spaces, which they applied in Serendra. Locsin was recruited to "tie all the elements and influences into one visual whole and create an Asian-Filipino theme for the buildings."

"The *bahay na bato*, the pseudo-colonial adaptation of the *bahay kubo*, became the source of inspiration of the architecture. We worked with MRY to develop that language," he revealed. Said Locsin: "If you look at how it was put together, there is a tripartite division of the architecture. You have a heavy base that is articulated in stone, and then a lighter upper body with some transparencies and cantilevers, and a pitched roof that caps the structure. It is actually a peculiar thing. You cannot do it literally because you cannot take a classical *bahay na bato* and stretch it out that long. It will simply look weird. The idea is to take the essence of the architecture and reinterpret it."

Indigenous architecture

"In essence, all sections have shared features," Locsin noted. "The feeling is similar. But with more stories in Sections B and C, what is very clear is that you cannot do exactly the same thing as Section A. This business of just a base and a body and then a roof doesn't quite work on a slightly taller building. So we added this element, which again was inspired by our indigenous architecture. We took the *tukod* or bracket that is commonly used to keep the windows of the *bahay kubo* open. We still had the base and body, but at the topmost floors, we introduced the *tukod*, so the roof became wider. They support the end of the eaves and they actually carry rainwater. It's not totally the literal tukod of the *bahay kubo*. For one thing, it's made of steel. The adaptation cut the long body into a more human scale."

"It is architecture that has not been done here on that kind of scale," Locsin remarked, "but it has this look that is clearly very different from anything you have ever seen. More than anything, Serendra is a people-driven place. It is halfway between a house and a condo. And the gardens, I think, will be its strongest and most defining feature."

A condo-type house for the price of a scooter

From page C1

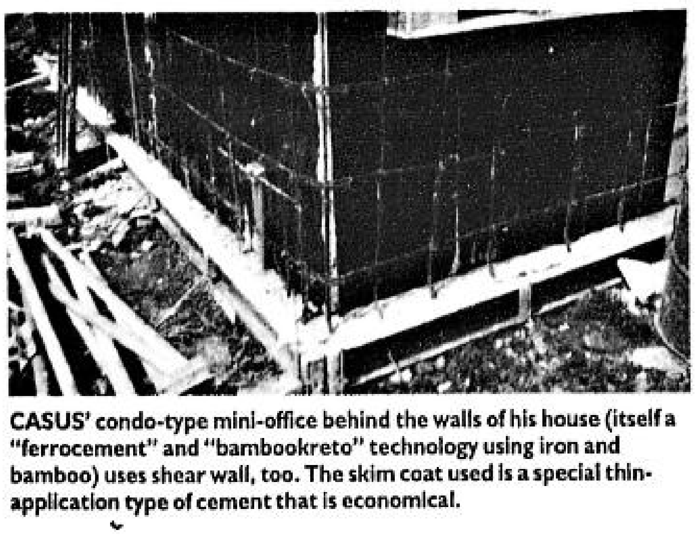
ture can be more durable. And even during typhoons the roof will not be uprooted. With this concept, the whole house is stable," said Casus.

Economical design

"The best economy is the economy of scale. When you build this repetitively, on a mass production scale, then the cost goes down to a minimum."

In terms of labor, Casus said this design is also economical. Two workers can be assigned to dig for and build the concrete. Another two people can be tasked to build only the walls. Their skills, which Casus likened to skilled machinists and craftsmen, can now be developed on their specific tasks, while the cost and build time are reduced.

"We have adopted the principle of mass production in cast-in-place construction to exemplify maximized housing for the poorest of the poor," said Casus. And if the concept of "sweat equity" is used, where the would-be occupants help build the house, the cost of building the house becomes ever more affordable.



CASUS' condo-type mini-office behind the walls of his house (itself a "ferrocement" and "bambookreto" technology using iron and bamboo) uses shear wall, too. The skim coat used is a special thin-application type of cement that is economical.

Vertical expansion

"The foundations of these houses are specially designed. They are reinforced and ideal for even soft soil such as building upon former rice fields."

The design's readiness to allow for vertical expansion, Casus said, is key to building mass housing in an urban setting.

"The price of the land has become so exorbitant that you can only expand upward. This solves the problem. In five or 10 years, people living in squatter communities can acquire a loan and expand upward," said Casus.

He didn't always have the *masa* in his mind. Before embarking on this project, Casus lived the lucrative life of an architect designing big-budget buildings and publishing an architectural magazine. He was also Home Guaranty Corp consultant for four years.

To this day, the 40-sq-m model house he built at the Department of Science and Technology compound using a P100,000 financial grant still stands. At present, he also heads a group of architects and engineers known as Casus Associates Group (professional technical consultants), and heads a foundation called Science Technology Architecture Research. The Casus Associates Group executes computer-aided designs (CAD) for buildings abroad.

Low-cost housing

For the ordinary folk, Casus' name may already ring a bell. He was the architect commissioned by the Couples for Christ for its Gawad Kalinga housing project. For this project, Casus would be able to build decent houses for P50,000.

Casus, whose name sounds eerily close to the Spanish word for house—"casa"—has more dreams for mass housing in the Philippines. He said he wishes to put in Spanish and Mediterranean designs even on low-cost houses.

"You improve the poor's outlook in life by giving them a decent and affordable place to live in." So affordable, in fact, that even scooter makers may even look at him as a "strange," immovable competitor.

E-mail Casus and Tumblod at tkcp-ph@yahoo.com and jgcasus@info.com.ph

Edwina Koch Arroyo's retreat at Cottonwoods

COTTONWOODS has been home to Edwina Koch Arroyo since 1998, a distinguished figure in the advertising industry and president of the homeowner's association that has been rewarded with six years of living in a haven amid 42 hectares of undulating terrain in Antipolo.

"Shabby chic"—fashionably worn out to perfection—is the description for Edwina's home, with a wooden arbor escalating from the white picket fence to accent the gate, and a unique mailbox supplemented by the US Postal Service to add character. "The houses here are simple," Edwina notes of the Cottonwoods havens featuring American-inspired architecture reminiscent of those found in the state of Maine.

Home features

The demands of managing her consulting business that provides design and communication services, call for a functional abode to grant the venue for work and rejuvenation. Edwina's home has a fully functional office study lined with books that include those she has designed herself. Outlooking a garden with thriving landscaping, her office study provides convenient seclusion as it is nestled downstairs from the multilevel living and dining areas.

One will wonder how such a place is only a short distance from the bustling Ortigas Center, a residential community of unspoiled environment with flourishing century-old trees and clean air. "What you're buying are the trees. Cottonwoods is in the middle of an orchard," says Edwina. "I find it very hard to leave my home. I'm happy here. You can smell the fragrance of the trees. Behind us are people who make *suman*. There's also a *kasoy* (cashew) orchard there," truly a community that preserves characteristics belonging solely to Antipolo, Edwina adds, "I'm so comfortable at home. Even when building this house, I wouldn't want to leave at the end of the day."

Secured home

The comfort and security extends beyond her own yard, according to her. Says Edwina: "Here, you tend to cross the street and talk to your neighbors. We make it a point to greet people." She and her neighbors uphold the true meaning of a community. "We also make plans to go out together," she says, adding that because they feel so comfortable being here, they often end up not leaving Cottonwoods. She admits, "When I'm downtown, I want to hurry back home!" No towering gates and walls to interfere with your interaction with neighbors. "There's a sense of community. We see our neighbors' children growing up," she says.

"I have lived in an exclusive subdivision with high gates and walls. No one bothered to befriend us. We never met any of our neighbors," professes Edwina.

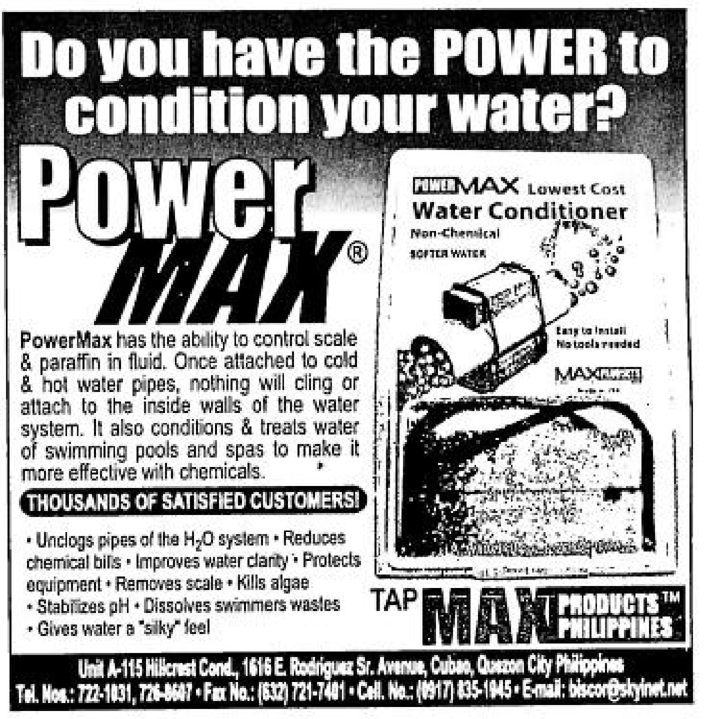
"Living here, your home is secure. You feel at peace among friends, surrounded by trees. Cottonwoods has preserved the best of Antipolo for modern living," concludes Edwina Koch Arroyo, one who has chosen to wake up to the chirping of birds, breathe in clean and fresh air, marvel at the stars in the clear night sky—all in the well-deserved Cottonwoods retreat with cool temperatures from the elevated terrains of Antipolo—a rare community available for the taking.

EDWINA: "I'm so comfortable at home. Even when building this house, I wouldn't want to leave at the end of the day."

SHABBY chic—fashionably worn out to perfection—is the description for Edwina's home, with a wooden arbor escalating from the white picket fence to accent the gate.

It's Here!
SELF - DRILLING EXPANSION SHIELD
Get It!
AVAILABLE AT
ARMSTRONG CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY
358 G. ARANETA AVE., SANTOL, QUEZON CITY
TELS. 7135211 TO 13 • 7135191 FAX 7135182

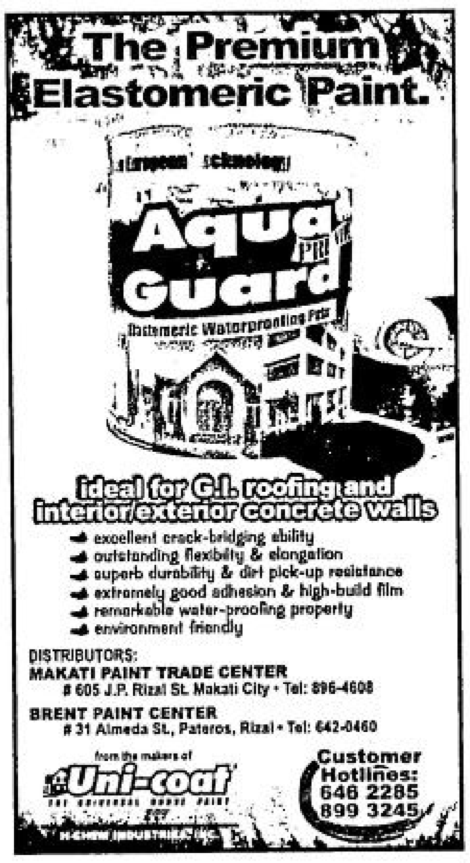
A HOW TO's COURSE FOR BROKERS, LAND OWNERS & DEVELOPERS
JOINT VENTURES & SYNDICATIONS IN REAL ESTATE PROJECTS
Oct 8, 1:30-6PM, AIM (ACCEED) Benavides cor. Trasierra Sts., Legaspi Vill., Mkti
Covers the importance of Joint Ventures & Syndications in the economy; reasons for a JV; how to package a JV proposal; important provisions in a joint venture agreement & examples; sharing schemes; what is to be shared; what to watch out & frauds by developers & landowners; how to protect landowners & developers; other concepts & forms of Joint Ventures & other related topics
For more details, call 681-0928 or email: urbanet@pacific.net.ph
Or simply text your fax no. or email address to CP# 0916-426-9174
URBAN INSTITUTE OF REAL ESTATE



Do you have the POWER to condition your water?
Power MAX®
POWERMAX Lowest Cost Water Conditioner
Non-Chemical SOFTER WATER
Easy to install No tools needed
PowerMax has the ability to control scale & paraffin in fluid. Once attached to cold & hot water pipes, nothing will cling or attach to the inside walls of the water system. It also conditions & treats water of swimming pools and spas to make it more effective with chemicals.
THOUSANDS OF SATISFIED CUSTOMERS!
- Unclogs pipes of the H_2O system • Reduces chemical bills • Improves water clarity • Protects equipment • Removes scale • Kills algae • Stabilizes pH • Dissolves swimmers wastes • Gives water a "silky" feel

TAP MAX PRODUCTS™ PHILIPPINES
Unit A-115 Hillcrest Cond., 1616 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City Philippines
Tel. Nos.: 722-1031, 726-8607 • Fax No.: (632) 721-7481 • Cell. No.: (0917) 835-1945 • E-mail: biscor@skyinet.net

IMPROVING RELATIONSHIP
Property developer Jardine Properties Inc. celebrates its 7th anniversary with the launch of its customer relations management program to further improve the relationship between the company and its customers. Leading the celebration is EVP Harry Rodriguez (left) and VP for Sales Orly Diaz who awarded their seven-year employees with a special gift.



The Premium Elastomeric Paint.
European technology
Aqua Guard PRO
Elastomeric Waterproofing Paint
ideal for G.I. roofing and interior/exterior concrete walls
- excellent crack-bridging ability
- outstanding flexibility & elongation
- superb durability & dirt pick-up resistance
- extremely good adhesion & high-build film
- remarkable water-proofing property
- environment friendly

DISTRIBUTORS:
MAKATI PAINT TRADE CENTER
605 J.P. Rizal St. Makati City • Tel: 896-4608
BRENT PAINT CENTER
31 Almeda St., Pateros, Rizal • Tel: 642-0460
from the makers of Uni-coat
Customer Hotlines: 646 2285 899 3245
H-CHEM INDUSTRIES, INC.

Your Total Solution To Any Waterproofing Problem
FLEXSEAL™
Elastomeric Paint
Total waterproofing protection for walls, floors & other general waterproofing requirements
SUPERSEAL
Cementitious Waterproofing Coating
Heavy-duty cement-based waterproofing protection for walls, floors, basements, water tanks and other water-holding structures
FLEXROOF
Elastomeric Roof Paint
Gloss waterproof roof paint specially made to waterproof and finish most type of roofings
From the most trusted name in waterproofing:
CAMPBRIDGE Waterproofing Systems, Inc
1370 JOSE ABAD SANTOS AVENUE, METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES
Tel. Nos. 252-0531 to 32 • 252-0549 to 51 • 252-0659 Fax: 252-0550
Website: www.campbridge.com
Distributor for Northern Luzon:
DAGUPAN TONY'S LUMBER INC. (PROBUILD)
AB Fernandez Ave. Dagupan Tel. No. (075) 523-4113 to 14/522-0477
Distributor for Visayas and Mindanao:
CEBU OVERSEA HARDWARE CO., INC.
#82 Plaridel St. Cebu City Tel No. (032) 254-1511 Fax No. (032) 52426
AVAILABLE THROUGH DEALERS NATIONWIDE

Seminar on property management

THE URBAN Institute of Real Estate will conduct a seminar on "Property Management and Real Estate Appraisal on Oct. 5, from 1:30 to 6 p.m. at the Asian Institute of Management Conference Center (AIM-Acceed), Benavidez corner Trasierra streets, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

The lecture will tackle the common problem of property lessors who are sometimes forced to sell their property due to mounting problems such as high vacancy rates, defaulting and problematic tenants, the increasing cost of repair and maintenance, increasing property taxes, harsh zoning ordinances and other related issues.

Lectures

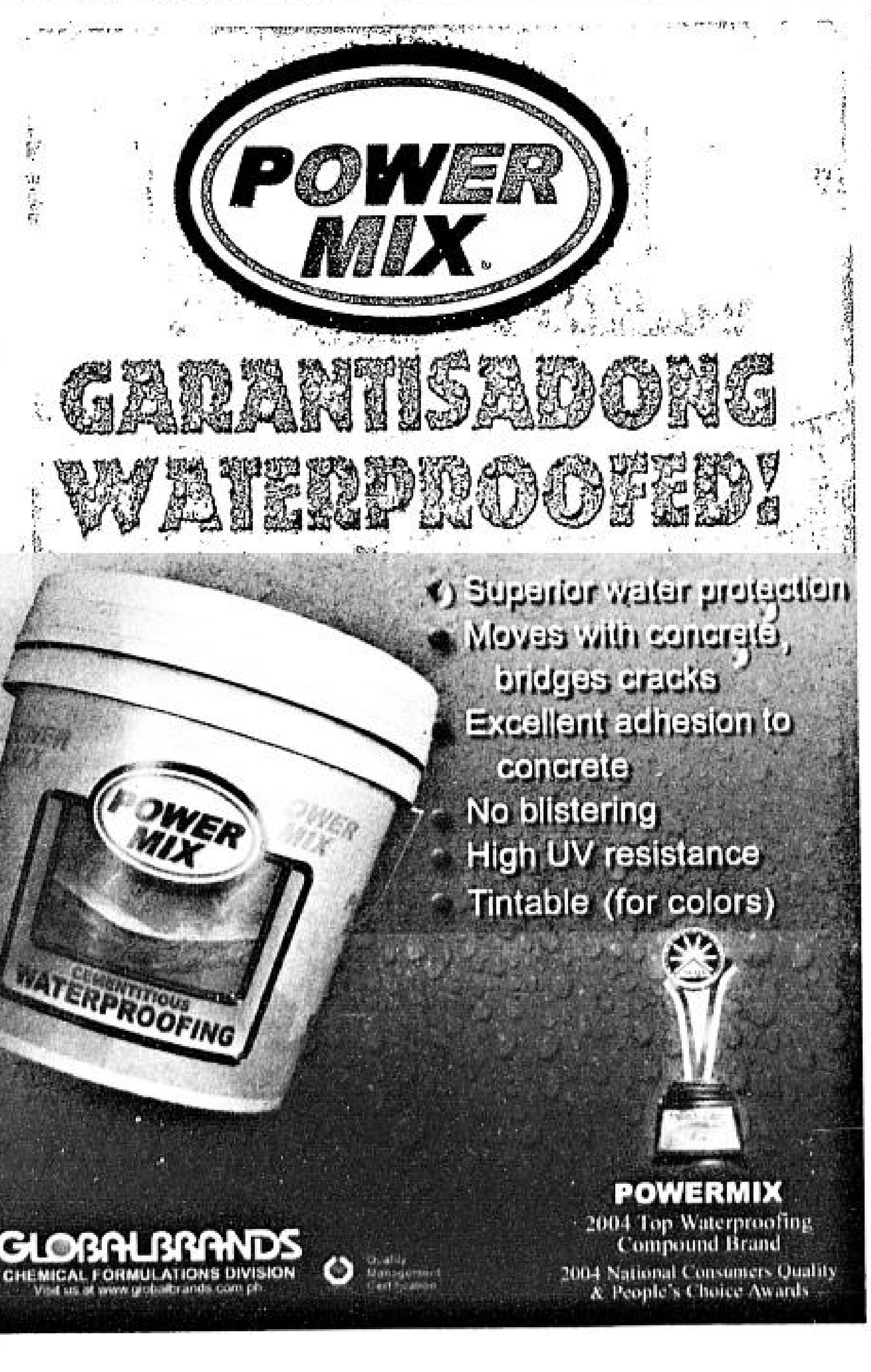
The first lecture, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., is "Introduction to Property Management" and will cover these topics: property management functions, objectives, organization and designations, management contract, important provisions on lease contracts, tenant selection, property maintenance, insurance and other related subjects.

The second lecture is from 4 to 6 p.m. on "Real Estate Appraisal" and will include these subtopics: needs for appraisal, principles of real estate values, factors that influence real estate values, data collection and verification, appraisal methods, market data approach, cost approach, income approach, site valuation and the preparation of appraisal reports.

Other seminars

Urban is also conducting other seminars which can be attended separately, on the same time and venue as follows: Oct. 2—Investing in Real Estate: Opportunities, Techniques and What to Learn; Oct. 4—Property Development and HLURB Rules; Oct. 6—How to Start and Manage a Successful Realty Office; Oct. 7—Real Estate Taxations; and Oct. 8—Joint Ventures for Real Estate Projects.

For inquiries, call Urban Institute 681-0928 or email at urbanet@pacific.net.ph.



POWER MIX®
GARANTISADONG WATERPROOFED!
- Superior water protection
- Moves with concrete, bridges cracks
- Excellent adhesion to concrete
- No blistering
- High UV resistance
- Tintable (for colors)

POWERMIX
2004 Top Waterproofing Compound Brand
2004 National Consumers Quality & People's Choice Awards
GLOBALBRANDS
CHEMICAL FORMULATIONS DIVISION
Visit us at www.globalbrands.com.ph

maXsteel
ROLL-UP SHUTTERS • METAL DOORS & ACCESSORIES • WINDOW LOUVERS • WALLSTUDS
MAX matibay na, mura pa!
Quality DOORS @ Reasonable Prices
ROLL-UP DOORS & GRILLES
WINDOW LOUVERS
METAL WALL STUD PARTITION
OPTION:
- MANUAL
- CHAIN BLOCK
- MOTOR
- MOTOR W/ REMOTE CONTROL

MATERIALS:
- GALVALUME
- OVEN-BAKED

Hi-Rated Steel Flush Doors (Fire Rated)
- COST SAVING
- BUILT TO LAST
- LIGHT WEIGHT
- BURN PROOF

Hardwares / Parts / Accessories for Flush Doors & Roll-Up Doors -Available
LOCKSET
DOOR CLOSER
PANIC DEVICE
ROLL UP SPRING
ENDLOCKS
MOTORS
DSGI DIATECH SUCCESS GROUP INC.
PLANT & OFFICE ADDRESS C2, no. 190 Gen. Luis St. Novaliches, Quezon City
FOR INQUIRIES CALL US AT 936-5349 • 936-7518 • 417-2194 • 419-7177
TELEFAX: 936-53-76 • 419-70-07 EMAIL diatech@info.com.ph
we accept REPAIR / RE-INSTALLATION JOBS NATIONWIDE

YOUR ULTIMATE WATERPROOFING PAINT
MACNELL AQUASEAL ELASTOMERIC PAINT
macnell ARCHITECTURAL FINISHES
- excellent waterproofing paint protection for home and commercial establishments
- provides heavy-duty top coat protection for general water-proofing requirements
- gives outstanding finish and good adhesion
- 100% surface protection from destructive effects of water seepage
- environment-friendly, superb durability

Manufactured by: MAYON INDUSTRIAL CORP.
51 Joy corner Harmony Sts., Grace Village, Balintawak, Q.C
TEL# 241-3353 • 364-5731 • 364-4733 • 241-3159 • 364-7135 • 364-6345

New model units available for viewing at Chateau Elyseé

By Charles E. Buban

MID-SCALE residential condominium Chateau Elyseé recently unveiled its new and more affordable two-bedroom model units aimed at buyers looking for affordable, high quality and modern residential development.

The 36 square-meter units, priced at P1.4 million each, carry French Mediterranean design architecture characterized by its wide windows, high ceiling and use of cool colors.

"The new model units achieved beauty through sheer simplicity—a discipline distinct to the Zen minimalist art and architecture philosophy," said Elsie Chua, president and CEO of Quadrillion Group of Companies, exclusive marketing arm of the property.

The model units are now available for viewing at the site located on Doña Soledad Avenue, Bicutan, Parañaque City.

CHATEAU Elyseé units are characterized by its wide windows, high ceiling and use of cool colors.

Sense of quietude

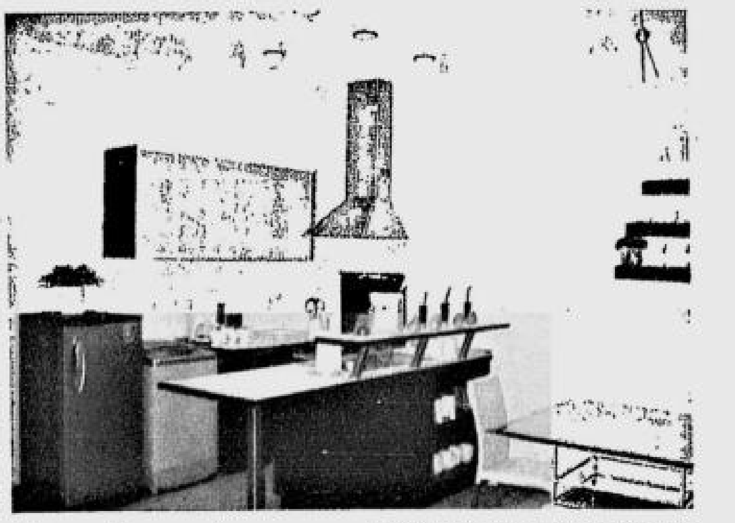
Its developer, SM Development Corp., said the cool and natural colors help enlarge the rooms visually as well as create a sense of quietude.

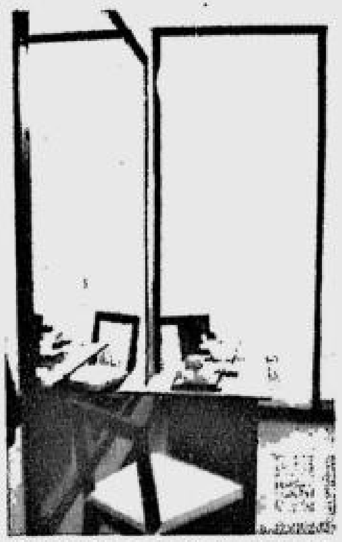
The developer added the use of frosted glass sliding doors and small raffia screen [that serve as dividers] minimizes clutter and creates ample space while the furniture and accessories [from tatami mats to sofa beds] are both functional and decorative.

Five-story buildings

Comprised of luxurious five-story buildings amid a spacious compound, Chateau Elyseé showcases an innovative approach in community development.

"It emphasizes eco-friendly environment, wide roads and open spaces, breathtaking landscapes and superb facilities," said Chua.


KITCHEN and dining area of the two-bedroom model unit


SIMPLE lines dominate Chateau Elyseé units.

Apart from being a venue for social gatherings, the clubhouse offers sports facilities like swimming pool for adults and kids, basketball and badminton courts, jogging pathways, gym and sauna as well as recreational facilities like social halls and KTV lounge.

Each Chateau Elyseé condominium unit is assured of privacy, security and exclusivity because of the buildings complex's state-of-the-art security and communications system including a 24-hour swipe and code security system and automatic fire alarm and speaker system.

Residents are also offered with a high-speed elevators, centralized garbage disposal and collection system, and parking spaces for both homeowners and their guests.

LGU social housing projects tackled at Creba-HUDCC conference

THE CHAMBER of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba), Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) will tackle local government social housing projects during the Creba-HUDCC national convention at the Boracay Regency Beach Resort in Malay, Aklan City on Oct. 21-23.

This was announced by Creba national president Purita R. Soliven and VP for chapter affairs Avelina P. Acuña, overall convention chair. Convention theme is "Creba--HUDCC: Pursuing Global Business Opportunities."

On the first day, Local Government Secretary Angelo T. Reyes, as main speaker, is expected to encourage local government officials to initiate social housing projects in their communities as part of their commitments to their constituents.

Rosemarie C. Basa, chair of the Creba Social Housing Foundation Inc. (CSHFI) will tackle guidelines on socialized housing development in every city and municipality. The various aspects of local housing projects will be taken up by CSHFI president Efren "Choy" Alas, and former CSHFI president Demetrio I. Posadas.

Other first-day speakers are HUDCC director Jeanette Cruz, "Initiating LGU Housing Projects"; Jaime Fabiana, Pag-Ibig Fund deputy executive officer and executive vice president, "Getting Approval for Pag-Ibig Fund Housing Loans"; and Margarito Teves, Landbank president, "Guidelines in Issuance of Letters of Credit Using Internal Revenue Allocation (IRA) as Collateral."

The CSHFI, HUDCC and DILG convened last July a successful LGU Social Housing Conference to promote affordable housing in local communities. Again, all city and town mayors and vice mayors have been invited and are expected to attend the October convention, especially those with housing programs for their areas.

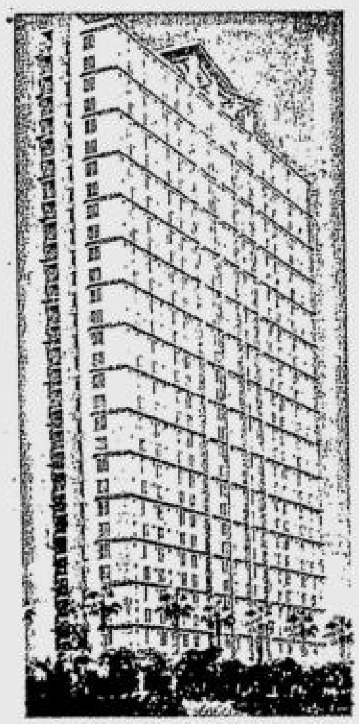
At the opening of the convention proper, HUDCC Undersecretary Armando de Castro and Soliven will give the opening remarks.

Convention participants will dialogue with heads of housing agencies, including lawyer Romero R.S. Quimbo, president, Pag-Ibig Fund; Gonzalo B.A. Bongolan, president, Home Guaranty Corp.; lawyer Angelito T. Salud, president, National Home Mortgage Financing Corp.; Eduardo D. Pamintuan, general manager, National Housing Authority, and lawyer Romulo Q. Fabul, commissioner and chief executive officer, Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board.

Speakers during the business sessions are Rep. Eduardo C. Zialcita, chair, House committee on housing, "Congress Initiatives in Housing"; Foreign Secretary Alberto G. Romulo, "Global Opportunities for Overseas Filipino Workers"; Fernando Zobel de Ayala, managing director, Ayala Group of Companies, "Real Estate Trends in the New Millennium"; and John Greig, world president, International Real Estate Federation Inc.

Davidica E. Salaya, chair, Philippine Leisure and Retirement Authority, on the PLRA thrusts and accomplishments; and Raju Shahani, president and general manager, RCI Asia, "Resort Properties and Vacation Ownership"; and Truman E. Cainglet, Region 6 Neda director, "Prospects of Real Estate Development on Panay Island."

Emeterio "Jun" Gonzales, VP for international group operations, Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig Fund), "Global Marketing of Philippine Properties"; and Dr. Jaime A. Cura, VP for marketing, Creba-GSI Inc., "e-Creba Internet Portal." David Fulton, counselor, commercial affairs and foreign service, US Embassy, who will be the guest of honor at lunch.


GATEWAY Garden Ridge

Condominium living perked up with bi-level idea

YOUNG urban families and individuals deserve an improved standard of living without compromising the comfort and luxury of feeling at home.

This is addressed by Gateway Garden Ridge (GGR), a 30-story condominium with 15 bilevel floors and the newest addition to Robinsons Land Corp.'s roster of successful high-rise buildings.

Homey atmosphere

Gateway Garden Ridge boasts of its avant-garde bi-level units that create a homey atmosphere in spite of living in a high-rise residence. Imagine a house built inside a building. A typical unit at Gateway Garden Ridge is comprised of the kitchen, living and dining area in the lower level while the bedroom, toilet and bath are found in the upper level. Unlike the conventional condominium apartment, this two-level layout gives the impression of living in a house, thus providing residents with more options to decorate, utilize and personalize their space.

TWO-LEVEL concept

Gateway Garden Ridge offers one-, two- and three-bedroom units to accommodate the various needs of the buyers. This is the perfect choice for those who want to take advantage of the benefits of a condominium yet enjoy the comfortable atmosphere of living in a house. Regarding this preference for the layout structure of Gateway Garden Ridge, RLC general manager Danilo E. Ignacio affirms that condo dwellers today are getting to be more demanding. "Our group's long experience in developing, managing and assessing market trends led us to believe that today's buyer wants more than just a typical layout," he said.

Strategically located on Edsa in Mandaluyong City, Gateway Garden Ridge is a convenient 10-minute drive away from the Makati and Ortigas business districts. It is also accessible to various modes of public transportation along EDSA such as buses and the MRT.

Mixed-use community

To further make life more convenient for its future residents, Gateway Garden Ridge is set to become part of a mixed-use community composed of office and residential buildings, and a mall, all being developed by RLC.

Gateway Garden Ridge lives up to its name by allotting 2,000 square meters of garden space for the enjoyment of its residents. The lush greenery gives the residents a feeling of serenity away from the hustle and bustle of the city. Apart from this, Garden Gateway Ridge also features a jogging path and a fitness center for the health buffs, as well as a children's playground, and swimming pools both for children and adults for the enjoyment of the whole family.

With its intimate and homey bilevel structure, Gateway Garden Ridge demonstrates a tangible move forward in the resurgence of condo living tailor-made for the active and dynamic young families and professionals.

The Laeuna De Taal signature

MORE and more urbanites are seeking refuge in out-of-town places, a trend influenced by the prospect of having a private sanctuary within which to recharge during weekends and holidays. A lifestyle comparable to what the well-heeled society of Lake Como in Italy enjoys is what Filinvest Leisure is currently developing.

Following its success in creating leisure-oriented products such as The Palms Country Club in Alabang, the land developer is now pursuing other notable projects.

Laeuna de Taal

Laeuna de Taal, named after the famous Taal Lake, is the prime lakeside residence for that second home in the country. For some, this could even be their ultimate home. Sixty sprawling hectares of lakeside living is now changing the landscape of Talisay.

Laeuna de Taal is poetically described as "embracing an organic, uncluttered lifestyle, celebrating nature and her gifts, inspiring self-discovery, rest and recreation—introducing simple lakeside living firsthand."

A place not too far from Manila, Laeuna de Taal is 10 minutes away from the booming and bustling resort-metropolis that is Tagaytay.

Currently being offered are two choice options:

"Orilla" (or "lakeside") is a beautiful stretch of residential living closest to the Lake Club. Here, cuts are 300 square meters—an ideal size for a comfortable, restful domain.

"Bahia" (meaning, "by the bay") is an enclave of 900-square-meter leisure lots with prime lake and mountain views.

By next year, the first phase of the Lake Club will be operational. A tribute to man's quest for rejuvenating body, mind and spirit, the Lake Club will indulge residents with boardwalks, garden huts and flower gardens. The architecture of this center for social activity will resemble an enlarged version of one's patio, where family and friends can congregate with conviviality. Hiking trails and view decks will be developed by this year-end, as well as stylish accommodations which will be ready for viewing by summer next year.

Preserving natural terrain

When architect Emmanuel A. Miñana first visited the site, he saw the opportunity to create a welcoming entry—a greeting of lush tropical gardens and of water elements to cleanse the spirit after the drive from Manila. His design reflects an Asian tropical village, all looking into an interior garden, cultivating the environment. He envisions a spatial flow which is so languid, one discovers things along the way as the space unfolds from one to another. Overall, the natural setting takes precedence for a symbiotic appreciation of the natural terrain. The design of the Lake Club and the planned accommodations set the tone for a friendly, easy and relaxed atmosphere.

Zen, Asian tropical landscaping

The landscape architecture envisioned for Laeuna de Taal is inspired by the same design discipline. A fusion of Zen principles and modern tropical concepts is what landscape artist Ponce Veridiano believes will complement the natural character of Laeuna de Taal. White-colored flowers such as calachuchi, sampaguita and kamuning are chosen to create a monochromatic tone, enhanced with silver dust and silver wall shrubs. "The landscape is done like a masterpiece of natural art," is the landscaper's description of his Laeuna de Taal work. "Residents will feel that wherever they go within the grounds; that every garden is part of their own."

Food and shopping

Fancy living a drive away to quaint dining discoveries! Along the Taal Ridge, Manila's most popular eateries have sprouted to satisfy travelers' cravings for their favorite comfort food. There are also gourmet and organic restaurants tucked away in the barangays where people pilgrimage to get a good gastronomic experience. Tagaytay's homegrown produce, the most beautiful range of flowers and fresh fruits, is always a must in the "pasalubong" list. There are also specialty places where one can buy home-baked breads, gourmet coffee, virgin honey and sweets. Tagaytay also plays host to "mom and pop" crafts studios and inns for short stays. Those that one needs to pamper the self are a short drive from Laeuna de Taal. Spas of various disciplines are also found in the area. Invitations to a boat ride to Taal Volcano proliferate along the road with eager boatmen flashing their promotional cards.

Lakeside resort living

With a resort environment so close by, a family's life can always be a revitalizing experience. This is Laeuna de Taal in all its natural splendor: embraced on one side by the mystical lake and the "tourist town" allure of Tagaytay.

For more information or site visit, call 850-Taal (5225) or check out www.laeunadetaal.com or www.taalfilinvest.com.

ONGOING construction at Megaworld's Forbeswood

Work in full swing at Forbeswood Heights

CONCRETING works have reached the sixth level of Tower 5, dubbed Evergreen, of Forbeswood Heights, a six-tower luxury residential development of property giant Megaworld Corp. and Bonifacio West Development Corp. in the Bonifacio Global City.

Towers 1 and 3, Agoho and Cambridge, have been topped off at the 16th and 18th levels, respectively, with ongoing exterior precast wall works, wall partitioning and electromechanical works.

Meanwhile, foundation works are under way for the second tower, Bauhinia.

Now 24 percent complete, Forbeswood Heights features executive studios to one-bedroom suites overlooking a 5,500-square-meter central park. Its resort-style amenities include a swimming pool complex, sunbathing lounge, multipurpose hall, gym, jogging trail, tennis court, mini putting green and children's playground.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2004
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
D1

LIFESTYLE

sms feedback: inquirer life name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)
or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

HOW stars shine brighter /D4

More 'fattening' habits

Part III

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

READ nutrition labels carefully.

A serving size is not how much you put on your plate or bowl as in "first serving versus second serving." You have to read the nutrition label to find out what one serving consists of. For example, a package of 12 cookies might define one serving as three cookies or six cookies.

You also need to take a close look at the number of servings per container if you intend to eat a whole package. If the product has 90 calories per serving and it contains four servings, the whole package is equal to 360 calories. If you aren't aware of the serving size and the number of servings, you could be eating the whole pack thinking you have only consumed 90 calories when you have actually taken in 360.

If you are weight-conscious, advertising blurbs like calorie-reduced, nonfat, low-carb, cholesterol-free and lite will surely catch your attention. Again, look at the label and find out how many calories there are. Don't go into calorie denial mode and just rely on the fact that the product is "low-carb" or "fat-free."

Also, be aware that the words "all natural" have no bearing on the calories of the product. They only mean that the ingredients are not highly processed and there are no artificial flavors or preservatives. A honey-coated granola bar is a healthy natural snack but it is by no means low in calories.

'Super size me'

If watching the award-winning documentary "Super Size Me" made you swear never to eat a super-sized portion of anything again, then you have learned a valuable lesson. Eating gigantic portions is one of the reasons America has seen a dramatic increase in obesity rates in the last two decades.

Research has clearly shown that people who are given larger-than-normal portions will lose track of how much they are actually eating. Consumer psychologist Brian Wansink says we need visual cues to remind us that we have eaten enough. When we are served very large portions, we can't tell that we have already eaten more than we are normally used to because there is still a lot of food left on the plate.

Super-sized portions may be slimming for your wallet because they usually cost just a little more than regular-sized portions, but they are definitely fattening to your waistline. If you want to keep your weight under control, remember what nutritionist Marion Nestle of New York University said: "Super-sized portions can create super-sized people."

Grazing

Grazing or eating six mini meals a day can be a good or bad habit for weight control. It all depends on how you go about it. The rationale behind this concept is based on the "thermic effect" of food. Simply put, there is an increase in body temperature whenever you eat. This means that the body burns calories to digest the food you have eaten. So the more frequently you eat, the more calories you burn.

Eating this way can help older women burn calories like a woman in her 20s. A study found that when women in their 50s and 60s were given small meals consisting of 250 or 500 calories, they burned as much fat as younger women. But when they were given 1,000-calorie meals, they burned 30 percent less fat.

No matter your age or gender, it makes sense to spread out your calories into five or six meals rather than bunch them up into two or three big meals so that you can take advantage of the thermic effect of food.

However, this advice does not always work for everyone and, in fact, can even be the very reason some people can't lose weight.

I know someone who equated feeling full with getting fat. She believed that if she ate small quantities of food at a time, she wouldn't gain weight. But instead of eating six small nutritious meals a day, she was snacking almost every hour on food that was easy to carry and eat with her fingers—mainly things like bread and dry cereal. She thought these were "safe" foods because they had almost zero fat. Not only was her diet unbalanced (too much carbohydrates and too little of everything else), she couldn't keep track of how much she was actually eating because she never felt full.

If you want to graze the right way, you need to plan carefully your small meals in advance so that you get the right amount of nutrients and you don't go overboard grazing on whatever happens to be around like vending machine snacks and other high-calorie junk food.

Feeding the stomach not the heart

Weight loss experts say there are two types of hunger—physical and emotional. When we are physically hungry, our body sends us signals telling us we should look for food. The signals or "internal hunger cues" are a rumbling stomach, an "empty" feeling, lightheadedness, irritability, tiredness and decreased attention span.

Emotional hunger, on the other hand, leads to eating because you are sad, happy, depressed, angry, bored, anxious or stressed. It can start in childhood when your mom or *yaya* would quiet your tears or celebrate a happy occasion with ice cream or a chocolate bar. You learn to associate the sensation of eating and the pleasure it gives you with emotional ups and downs.

Habitually using food as an emotional coping mechanism will not only make you fat, it can also keep you from confronting the real problems in your life. In her book, "A Substance Called Food," psychotherapist Gloria Arenson writes: "The more we abuse food and use it as a tranquilizer, the more we learn to live in a state of denial. We tune out, turn away, avoid and forget the underlying problem. Finally we forget we have forgotten and blame our weight and eating habits for everything that's gone wrong in our lives."

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.info

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

V-sit bend and straighten

THIS yoga and Pilates-inspired exercise strengthens the abs and quadriceps (front of the thighs) as well as stretches the hamstrings (back of the thighs).

Equipment:

Exercise mat

Exercise technique:

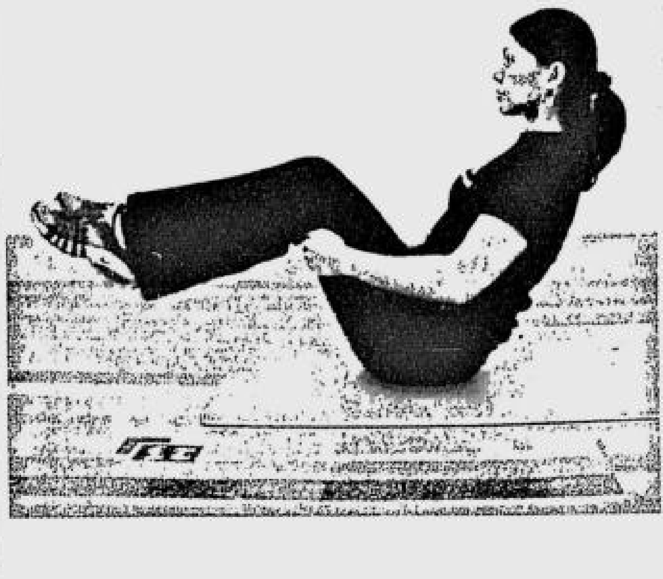
1. Sit with knees bent and back straight.
2. Lean back and balance on buttocks as you bring knees up. Hold behind the thighs.
3. Contract muscles in the front of the thighs as you straighten your legs.
4. Bend and straighten legs for the desired number of repetitions.

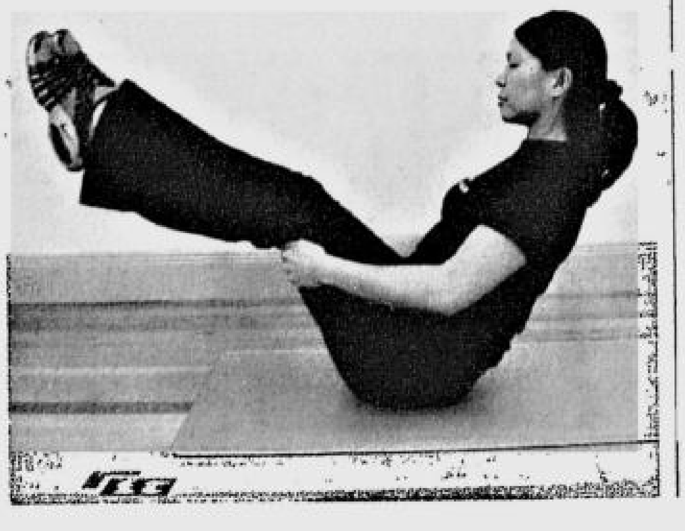
Performance tips:

1. Ideally, both your back and your legs should be straight as you perform the exercise in the V-sit position. If you can't do both, emphasize a straight back instead of straight legs. Avoid rounding your back to achieve straighter legs.
2. To make the exercise easier, bend and straighten one leg at a time.

Repetitions:

Do five to 10 repetitions.





Finally, it's here...
A Food Supplement for Diabetics and Hypertensives that put almost
2,500 years
of wisdom in Chinese Herbal Medicine...
In One Cup
Ampalaya & Guava
GENIAL DEW
Food Supplement for Diabetics and Hypertensives
Genial Dew Guava & Ampalaya Tea is a traditional herbal supplement from China which prevents the progress of Diabetes & Hypertension.
The Guava & Ampalaya in every tea bag work in synergy to promote normal blood pressure, proper function of the heart to prevent cardiovascular diseases, and achieve positive blood sugar level.
For FREE samples, send your name, age & occupation through a self addressed envelope to P.O. Box # 2838 QC
DIAMOND LABORATORIES INC.

Jolly Tissue Keeper
Available in 3 different colors.
Contents not included
FREE with every P250 Jollibee Drive Thru purchase
Promo Period: Aug. 16 to Sept. 30
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2252, Series of 2004

ASHAMED OF YOUR DARK UNDER-ARMS?
ALSO AVAILABLE:
CALL ME NOW: JULIA
T (02) 3744201
T (02) 4118319
09177907525
VETERANS VILL., PROJ. 7, Q.C.

The Association of Negros Producers, Inc.
presents
17th Negros Trade Fair
The country's premiere lifestyle retail show
hecho derecho
EXPO
September 30 - October 3, 2004
10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Proudly supported by:
earl2 Accelerating Enterprise Development
Our Media Partner
Manila Bulletin
Our Event Partners:
Cebu Pacific • Air 21 • Negros Navigation
Philippine Wine Merchants, Inc.
housewares linens food fashion accessories destinations furniture gifts gadgets lighting investments

Infanticipating?
C-Lium © Fibre is 100% psyllium husks, a pre-need and multi tasking fiber which helps eliminate constipation, helps regulate the bowel movement, cleans the colon and intestine of waste and toxins helps reduce the risk of heart disease, helps remove cholesterol, is a natural fat absorber, helps reduce weight, helps control blood sugar and contributes to achieving well-being for the whole family.
C-Lium © Fibre helps eliminate constipation
100% NATURAL AND ORGANIC FIBER SUPPLEMENT
NO ADDITIVES
NO SWEETENERS
NO CHOLESTEROL AND GLUTEN FREE
GLYCEIMIC INDEX (GI) LOW
Psyllium husks is endorsed by:
USFDA, ATKINS Diet, South Beach Diet
National Heart Foundation
American Heart Association
HALAL
BFAD Approved FR 38176
C-Lium © Fibre
For a healthier stomach.
Imported and Marketed by:
Oarsworth Marketing Inc
Tel: (632) 5246549, 5246148 Fax: (632) 5216311
E-mail cliumfibre@pacific.net.ph
Webpage, www.cliumfibre.com
AVAILABLE AT:
mercury drug
DISTRIBUTED BY:
PHILUSA CORPORATION TEL. 631-1731 to 39 Fax. 635-6510 to 11
RECOMMENDED BY GASTROENTEROLOGISTS, MEDICAL AND HEALTH PRACTITIONERS.
TXT 4 INFO: • LUZON • VISAYAS • MINDANAO

TOP photographer Patrick Uy and wife Evelyn with Gemma Suzara and Maricar Lim

ALL in the famille: the Manahan clan—Tats, Juana, Johnny and Lilianna

MISS of the hour Juana Manahan, curator of the exhibit, with Chito Vijandre and Ricky Toledo of Firma

WOMEN of style. Maripi Muscat and Lulu Tan Gan

BUSINESSMAN Mandy Eduque and his daughter Alexandra

MARY Ann and Francis Lumen with Lynette Nolan

JOHNNY Velasquez

5 fab affairs in one evening

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** on Kodak Max

I WOKE up on Thursday, wondering what I would do with myself that evening. I had five invitations to various affairs and choosing one was like giving up my favorite yummy grilled *bangus* sandwich at Hot Shot. No matter. If I missed something, then, *c'est la vie... di bala*?

The earliest happening was the chic opening of the art exhibit called Neo Corpo! at Greenbelt 3, with cool, tall, beautiful **Juana Elvira Manahan**, granddaughter of the divine, late **Elvira Manahan**, as curator. My earliest recollection of Juana was from a newspaper feature when she was 14 years young. She dyed her long hair in shocking flamingo pink and wore her own brand of flea-market fashion that only a young babe with flaming pink hair would dare.

Well, *dahlings*, now 21 years young, she has become a fab statuesque 5'9" serious art history student in London. She reminds me of her stunning cousin, the elegant **Samantha Eduque**. Juana now wears her hair in its natural color. For the opening cocktails she wore a chic chiffon number in powder pink and lime green by imaginative, talented couturier **Rhett Eala**, no less.

Fab taste makers **Chito Vijandre** and **Ricky Toledo** of the high-end, one-of-a-kind Firma Makati, were Juana's co-presentors. That explained the *tres* chi-chi pack and gorgeous eye-catching setup at the lobby that evening.

The customer service rotunda, decorated with topiaries and garlands, was the scene of a sumptuous buffet spread. Smack in the middle was caterer **Bambi Gobio**, serving up hot canapes.

To make things even better, there were chilled champagne, French reds and whites. Non-alcoholic invitees had a cool, refreshing tropical drink with ginger zest.

With good food came interesting conversation to eavesdrop on from a *haute monde* crowd discussing the merits of each painting by five artists Juana chose to exhibit. The works of **Ronald Ventura, Gerri Duenas, RM de Leon, Rafael del Casal** and **Bruihn**, were, as Juana wrote in her curatorial notes, indeed excellent "in draftsmanship and composition given the theme of the body." It was definitely hard for me to decide which style I preferred. Believe me, *palanggas*, each one had its own distinctive appeal and that contributed to the juicy conversation in between mouthfuls of yummys.

Mandy Eduque was seen choosing between two Ventura works. A "sold" sticker was seen beside one of RM de Leon's works, as well as Del Casal's drawings. Bruihn's works were carefully scrutinized by interior designer, southern gent **Jonathan Matti**. He discussed the works with **Tate Manahan**. When I asked which of the artists' works they preferred, the Firma fab duo Chito V. and Ricky T. chorused: "All!"

I was told Juana's father **Johnny** helped her set up the panels and hang the paintings, while mother Tats and younger sister **Lilianna** took charge of other little details, like making sure reserved and sold stickers were in place, natch! Other Manahan *famille* members were all *tres* visible. With the heavy show-biz connections of Johnny Manahan, I wondered at the conspicuous absence of show-biz folk, except for **Ai-Ai de las Alas**, who dashed in late-ish, and Johnny's pals from way back, **Leo** and **Gina Martinez**, who breezed in with their nephew, **Gary V's** son, **Paolo Valenciano**.

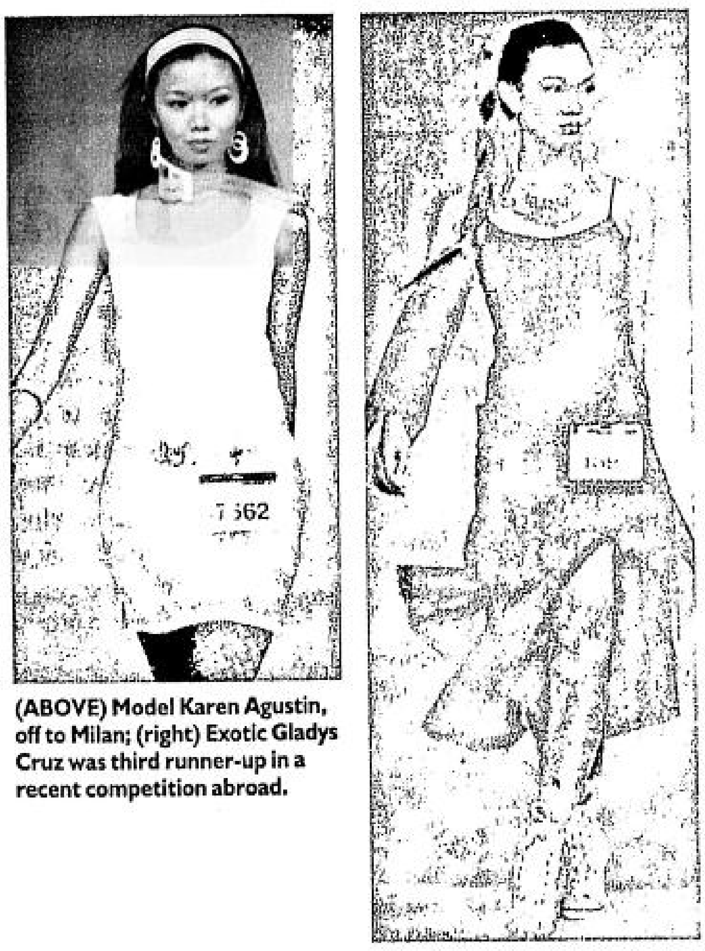
So, without batting an eyelash, *moi* can say this was a real *famille* affair, *di bala*? It was a smashing opening for a show that was excellently put together, *palanggas*.

Check out Neo Corpo at the Greenbelt 3 lobby until Sept. 30.

SISTERS two—Lilianna and Juana—with Paolo Valenciano and JR Ponce Enrile

THE GIRL and the painters: Juana Manahan with artists Ronald Ventura, Rafael del Casal, Bruihn, RM de Leon and Gerri Duenas

HOTSHOTS at the International Modeling and Talent Convention: Arlene Pedjoe, director, JRP Boston; Marivic Padilla-Catala, international director, JRP Manila; and Willie Ninja, runway guru



(ABOVE) Model Karen Agustin, off to Milan; (right) Exotic Gladys Cruz was third runner-up in a recent competition abroad.

WOW party

It was party time and party hard they did, those gals known as the Women of Wild Wines (WOW). Getting together at the Blue Onion Bar and Resto, the young, beautiful and hip ladies celebrated the grand launching of their newest hot mate... Wild Vines Little Buddy single serve 250 ml bottle.

"Wild Vines Ladies' Night" was an exhilarating happening. Introduced that evening were Wild Vines Little Buddies in Blackberry Merlot, the cool Peach Chardonnay and, the latest addition to the deliciously intoxicating party set, Blueberry Cabernet Sauvignon.

Since it was ladies night, male heartthrobs served Wild Vines and attended to the women's every need, *palanggas*, with pleasure, if I may add. Hot RX Monster Radio jocks **Boom** and **Fran** hosted the program. The games began with the women joining "The Bachelor Game." They wowed Power Boy, gorgeous hunk **Geoff Rodriguez**, with their sharp wit and feminine charm. Needless to say, greedy Geoff wanted to date them all, but there could only be one winner.

Nonstop dancing to the sounds of M Power Band rocked the floor. Others went for the face and body painting, henna-tattoo application and caricatures of what make a woman WOW! The whole shebang was broadcast live over Monster Radio RX 93.1, no less.

The Women of Wild Vines had a blast welcoming the newest party essential—Wild Vines Little Buddies, *dahlings*.

Bringing home the bacon

That superwoman achiever, **Marivic Padilla-Catala**, had tons of happy news when I lunched with her, *palanggas*. Marivic, by the way, is the hotshot executive director of John Robert Powers International, no less. She said the three models she brought to the International Modeling and Talent Convention in New York came home winners. Bb. Pilipinas Universe 2002, eye-catching **Karen Loren Agustin**, was second runner-up in Female Model of the Year, and got a modeling contract this month in Milan.

The "New York, New York 2004" at the posh New York Hilton gathered talents and models from Canada, Mexico, Europe, Asia and the United States, with their talent scouts.

Another of our gals, exotic **Gladys Cruz**, was third runner-up in the makeup and jeans competition, and honorable mention in swimwear. She received nine callbacks, no less. Headturner **Francois Filamor**, 6'2", got a contract from Sub-Zero Modeling Management in New York.

Now that's the John Robert Powers way, *dahlings*.

Marivic herself received the Star Award at a gathering of JRP directors from various cities in the United States, that included **Arlene Pedjoe** from JRP Boston, who was *tres* visible. Hey, this is the second time that the models JRP sent to New York came out winners. Last year, **Connie Wong** and **Renali Mercado** also won top prizes and got loads of modeling contracts.

I was told that JRP hotshot president and CEO, **Richard Upton**, is about to open the 13th branch of John Robert Powers in Asia, this time, in Taipei! Not bad, huh?

NANCY Harel and Associates Inc.'s PR angels: Bheng Loretizo, Docker Cavestany and Aisa Gamo

WORLD Impact president Nancy Roxas

GEOFF Rodriguez toasts the new Wild Vines Little Buddy.

E&j Gallo's sales director Andy Hicks, product manager Lloyd Dizon, Von Hizon, managing director for international brands of the Andreson Group, local distributor of Wild Vines; E&J Gallo's marketing executive Katherine Lee, marketing manager Loretta Lee and marketing director Tomo Azuma

THE HUNKS that got the gals sipping the so-cool Wild Vines Blueberry, Peach and Blackberry

THE WOMEN of Wild Vines pose with RX cool jocks Boom and Fran.

Natural first-aid remedies

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

THERE is a wealth of natural remedies in the world's forests, and even in our backyards—and along with them, an equally generous supply of natural goodness. Let's take a closer look at some of them, to cure or at least manage our everyday health and life.

What's the cure for dizziness?

This is not a condition but a symptom. Causes could be high/low blood pressure, overstressed adrenals, low blood sugar (hunger pangs), anemia, B-12 deficiency, flu, colds, unusual reaction to medication, shock, fear or emotional stress.

See your doctor immediately. However, a little help can come from: apple cider vinegar/apple or grape juice (4 oz of any of these diluted in warm water). It balances electrolytes and blood sugar, and aids in getting the stomach settled.

- Sage—Especially good for nausea, as tea.
- Honey/hard candy—Suck on this slowly for sudden low blood sugar problem.
- Cloves—Best for nausea, as tea. Place 1 tsp of regular/whole cloves (crushed) in a pint of water. Strain. Add honey.
- Garlic—This regulates blood pressure and aids circulation. Mix ½ tbsp fresh garlic in a cup of hot water. Take as tea.

Can you recommend a good skin regimen to combat rashes?

Physicians often have difficulty diagnosing skin rashes, which can be caused by a myriad of things—allergies, psoriasis, scabies (skin mite), fungus, nervousness or emotional disturbances like worries, anger, etc. Eliminate substances that might have caused the rash—soaps, perfumes, synthetic fabrics, jewelry, lotions, certain foods (chicken, shrimp, chocolate, etc.).

Try relaxation therapy if you have been tense lately (massage, yoga, meditation). Wash the affected area. Apply the following:

- Aloe vera (sabila)—A general all-rash treatment. If fresh, peel off the skin, use the fleshy gel and rub on the affected area. Mix some gel (1 tsp) with water and drink as a tonic.
- Apple cider vinegar—Apply on the skin one to two times daily. Take ¼ tsp in a cup of warm water, twice daily.
- Baking soda—Soothes itchiness. Mix 1 tbsp in 2 tsp of water to make a paste.
- Virgin coconut oil/avocado oil—Antiseptic and antibacterial. Massage on the affected area.
- Celery—Eat two fresh stalks or make a glass of juice. Drink when nervous.
- Oatmeal—Cook 2 cups in water. Apply warm on the skin. Leave on for 15 minutes.
- Vitamin A (10,000 iu), D (200-400 iu), E (200-400 iu)—Take one tablet daily, then puncture the contents of one capsule and apply on the affected area.
- Soak bath—In a tub of very warm water, mix a handful of assorted herbs: Mint, basil, oregano, etc. Add flowers like jasmine, *sampaguita* and soak for five minutes. (Optional: Add 1 cup baking soda, aloe vera or apple cider vinegar)

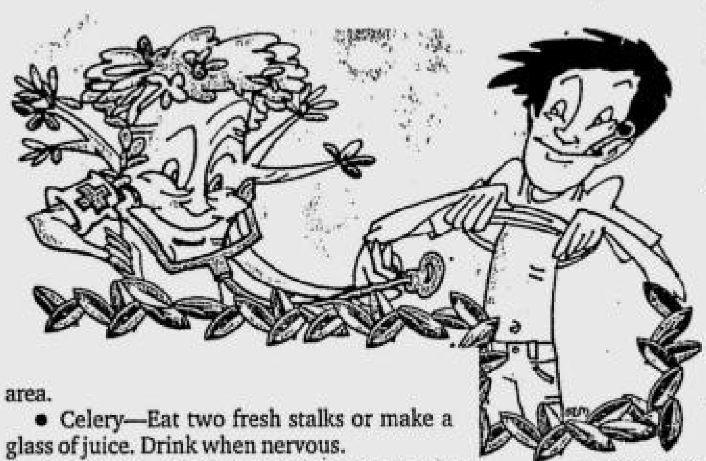


ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY MISTADES

How do I manage my peptic ulcers?

Peptic ulcer usually appears either in the stomach (gastric) or small intestine (duodenal). A burning pain is often felt one hour after eating.

If the pain persists, see your physician Asap. Improve your diet immediately. Eliminate fats, oils, alcohol and heavy meats. Eat more vegetables, fruits, broths. Drink more water. Reduce or manage your worries. Stop smoking and drinking aspirin. Check food allergies or abdominal bacterial infection.

- Aloe vera plant—Drink in puree form, diluted with water.
- Cabbage—4 to 6 oz, thrice daily.
- Baking soda—As an antacid, ¼ tsp in a cup of warm water. Works immediately.
- Cayenne—¼ tsp in a cup of hot tea or water. Don't worry, this burns mucus and not your stomach lining. If any burning sensation is felt, eat a small box of raisins to cool you down.

Depression is my biggest problem. What do I do?

Everyone sometimes suffers from depression. Nobody is immune to it. However, know that it is considered as a defense versus situations that are frustrating and beyond your control. Withdrawal from life and all its pressures is a good thing—but only for short periods. You may experience loss of appetite, difficulty in concentrating/thinking, low libido/energy, or feeling of hopelessness/worthlessness. With a little time off, you can fight it. However, if you have suicidal tendencies, see your therapist immediately.

Talking is the best form of therapy. Talk it out with the person you have a problem with. Keep busy. Cry it out.

- Exercise—Get physical. Write in your journal.
- Chamomile, sage, peppermint, rose, catnip—Brew a pot. Sip 5 cups in a day.
- Honey/raisins—If depression is due to low sugar, take 1 tsp immediately.
- Valerian root—Take it as a tea, twice daily.
- St. John's Wort—Great relaxant.
- Red raspberry/wormwood—Balances hormones while relaxing you.

Spa treatments to make you feel pampered are wonderful for total well-being.

Love and light!

Reference: "A Treasury of Natural First Aid Remedies (From A - Z)," by James Kusick

Sinoman
not just GREEN TEA
Plus 12 Chinese Medicinal Herbs

With HAWTHORNE BERRY -- useful in the treatment of atherosclerosis
BLUE CURLS Herb -- acts as a blood cleanser, sedative and aids in the treatment of common respiratory and cardiovascular ailments
MORNING GLORY SEEDS -- for nephritis (kidney inflammation) and urinary difficulty
CASSIA TORA -- improves blood circulation by dilating capilliaries and promotes clear vision
ADZUKI BEAN -- acts as a blood purifier, circulatory stimulant and helps prevent kidney disorders
PORIA FUNGUS Herb -- for spleen disorders, weak stomach, insomnia, anxiety and palpitations
PATCHOULI -- for cell regeneration to aid rehydration and rejuvenation of dry or matured skin
GERMINATED BARLEY -- helps improves digestion
SHEN QU Herb -- helps strengthen the stomach and promotes digestion
CITRUS FRUIT Herb -- for cough, common colds and chest pains
WATER PLANTAIN TUBER -- relieves painful urination, treats phlegm and fluid retention
WILD RADISH Herb -- treats common gastric disorders

Available at all leading drugstores and supermarkets nationwide

Distributed by
DERICH DIAMOND PHARMA INC.
(632) 951-5901
(632) 932-7555 local 114
diamond@i-manila.com.ph

THE TEA FOR GOOD HEALTH

Time to set the record straight on pill use & weight gain

Women using Desogestrel-containing low dosed 20 mcg EE pills:

NO WEIGHT GAIN!

Today's low dose pills do not cause weight gain. But the association between weight gain and the Pill is one of women's most deeply held views, and that coupled with the importance of body image means that it is very hard to change. However, it means many women are limiting their contraceptive options and missing out on the benefits of the Pill.

The Pill has very much changed since it was first introduced 40 years ago. **Early high- dose pills contained more than 80 mcg of estrogen (in the form of Ethinylestradiol) and almost certainly caused weight gain in some women. However, the pills in common use today almost universally contain much more amount of estrogen. These low dose pills, in particular, those with only 20mcg of estrogen are not associated with weight gain.**

Studies with a low dose combined pill containing just 20 mcg of Ethinylestradiol (EE) + 150mcg of desogestrel (DSG) showed that the weight of the majority of women who used this pill for 6-13 cycles had stable body weight (Serfaty, et al. 1998 and Lavin, et al. 2004)

It is really time to set the record straight in relation to the Pill and weight gain. **The evidence shows that fear of weight gain is unfounded and should not deter women from using the Pill.** Women need to be given the facts to remove this common and persistent misconception. Occasionally, hormonal contraceptives could cause modest but transient increases in weight as women's bodies become accustomed to the hormonal changes. For this reason, women should continue with a method for at least three months to give your body time to adapt to the Pill or any hormonal contraceptive before stopping. **It is indeed time for women to be aware that weight gain is usually associated with behavioral and physical changes attributable to aging!**

For questions, please consult your doctor or email:
Or text to 0917-8523350
Or send your letters to:
ORGANON PHILS., INC.
5th Flr., Felisa Bdg., #108
VA Rufino St., Legaspi
Village, Makati City 1260
Tel. # 02- 8177638 loc. 14 & 20
Fax # 02- 8177471

Were the fairy photos faked?

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

TWO readers pointed out, reacting to my column last week, that the two British girls who took the Cottingley photos of the fairies in 1917 and 1920 later confessed to have faked them.

Liv Morano-Castillo, a marketing officer, wrote: "I read somewhere when the girls were grown up, that they admitted they used cutouts for fairies in their pictures because their parents didn't believe them. I have seen the pictures the girls took in a book I read a long time ago, and I can't believe people thought them to be authentic. The fairies were fake-looking. There was even one picture where the supposed fairy was wearing a dress that was in fashion during that time, with hat and all. I believe in fairies, but I think the pictures referred to in your column were fake."

Another reader, who calls himself Jepoy Sulit, said my story of the Cottingley photos was not complete because "you did not state that the two girls actually confessed in 1981 that they faked the fairies by cutting them out of a book entitled 'Princess Mary's Gift Book,' published in 1915.

"You may look at this site to prove the authenticity of my research, http://www.museumofhoaxes.com/photos/cottingley.html.

Facts and nothing but

"Maybe you have already taken a look at it, but whatever your intentions [were in] not including the confession made by the two girls, you still have to make a clear report by completing the story. As readers, we expect that you, sir, should provide us complete and comprehensive fact, or even just mere fact."

I agree completely that we should at least have the bare facts in a given story, but what are the real facts in this case? I did mention in my column last week that not everybody believed in the authenticity of the Cottingley fairies' photos and even enumerated the reasons why.

I am aware of the so-called "confession" of fakery the two Cottingley girls allegedly made later in their lives. Why it took them so long to confess is something to think about. Why is it that people are more easily persuaded to believe that a paranormal phenomenon is false rather than authentic?

The information that Sulit cited came from critics who did not believe at all in fairies, or in any paranormal phenomenon. No matter what evidence one presents, it will be shot down as unacceptable or not valid. Notice the way Sulit ignored completely the statements of Conan Doyle, Gardner, Hodson and the photo experts saying the photos were authentic.

He relied solely on the dubious statements from the Internet, whose authorship one can hardly trace or validate. On the other hand, in a book on the supernatural published by Grolier Enterprises, where I based my story, author Daniel Farson said: "Gardner pointed to a piece of evidence that emerged quite unexpectedly a year after Conan Doyle's article (about the fairies). A friend of Frances Griffiths in South Africa produced a copy of the first fairy photograph, which Frances had sent to her in a letter in 1917. Not only was this several years before the case was taken up publicly by Conan Doyle, but also, Frances' letter dismisses the fairies in a single, offhand phrase amidst gossip about her dolls, her parents and another photo of herself.

"This backs up Gardner's contention that, for Frances Griffiths, there was nothing extraordinary about seeing fairies and that as Elsie Wright had told him, Frances had stared straight at the camera because she was far more interested in having her own photo taken than in fairies she could see any day... As for the ultra-typical looking fairies, Geoffrey Hodson maintained that fairies often choose to materialize in the forms that peasants or children have thought up for them, or in some image they particularly admire. 'The surprise,' he says, 'would be if they were different.'"

In conclusion, Daniel Farson said: "In spite of the overwhelming publicity, which the Wrights could not in the end escape, no one ever convincingly disproved the fairy photographs. If the photographs were fraudulent, then the Wright family—or someone—apparently possessed a photographic genius that fooled every expert."

A similar thing happened in the case of the Fox sisters in New York, whose communications with the dead through knocks and rappings in their home in Hydesville, New York in 1848 gave birth to the spiritualist movement in the West.

Margaret Fox was 10 when the strange rappings were heard in their house. Sister Kate was 7 and Leah was much older. Leah became the first professional medium when spiritualism was established. Then the relationship between Leah and her younger sisters soured. When Margaret was left in poverty and sickness, she got envious of the more successful Leah. So in 1888 she publicly confessed that the rappings were faked by them. She said she and Kate developed control over their joints and muscles, that they could produce the sounds without detection, even demonstrating how they did it.

But the séances they held could not be explained as mere trickery. So spiritualism still grew despite her claim, which was never really proven. So there you are.

E-mail reactions to this column to jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Listen to my radio program, 7-8 p.m. every Sunday over dzMM at 630 khz on the AM radio band.

Rx MEDICard

Take Charge Doc!

Dr. Nicky S. Montoya

Take Charge Doc! is your weekly question and answer guide on general health issues and illnesses. MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. And in a common thrust with the campaigns of the government, Take Charge Doc! parallels its features on the Calendar of Health Events of the Department of Health.

What is Alcoholic Liver Cirrhosis? Is this related to Liver Cancer?

Alcoholic liver cirrhosis is considered the end stage of alcoholic liver disease. It is a serious and potentially irreversible consequence of chronic ethanol use characterized by diffuse scarring of the liver tissue. Once a threshold level of consumption is exceeded (estimated to be 80g/day for men and 20g/day for women), the risk of damaging liver tissue increases dramatically. Patients with cirrhosis often report a recently occurring tendency to bleed, passage of tea-colored urine, strong flatulence, enlarging abdomen, swelling of both legs (edema) and having difficulty in concentration. On physical examination, the general state of health is often reduced, there is yellowish discoloration of the eyes and skin (jaundice), spider-like blood vessels on the chest and arms, scarlet tongue, fissures in the corners of the mouth, globulary tense abdomen and white nails. Bruises or hematomas are frequently observed. Some patients are locally disoriented and have tremors.

Alcohol alone appears to be an independent risk factor for Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC), albeit a weaker one than viral hepatitis. One Japanese study reported 10-year frequency rates for HCC to be 18.5%. Most investigators in the field however, are in agreement that alcohol consumption, when combined with viral hepatitis, poses a high risk of HCC at 80.7%. Among alcoholics, men older than 50 years of age appear most vulnerable to development of Liver Cancer.

This week's answer to our feature question was authored by **Dr. Jane Ricaforte-Campos**, our accredited specialist based in Medical Center Manila. Dr. Campos, a 1992 Medicine graduate of the De la Salle University, specializes in Internal Medicine. She took her Fellowship training in Gastroenterology in UP-PGH, from 1997 to 1999. Dr. Campos is also a Training Officer and an active Consultant for the Department of Medicine of Medical Center Manila. She is an Associate Professor for the Emilio Aguinaldo College of Medicine and a Visiting Consultant at Manila Doctors Hospital. Members may visit Dr. Campos for their consultation needs at her clinic, Room 330 from Mondays to Thursdays, 2 to 6 PM and on Fridays and Saturdays, 10 AM to 12 noon.

BE HEARD AND BE READ. Write to DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA (c/o *TAKE CHARGE DOC!*) or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for inquiries on health matters.

MEDICard is the first HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asia Pacific Region to be ISO CERTIFIED

MEDICard PHILIPPINES, INC.: 9/F Sagittarius Bldg., H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City 1227 TRUNKLINE: 867-2020 FAX NO.: 894-5720, 810-3856 TEXT: Key in MEDICARD and send to 2344 (Globe and Touch Mobile) or to 4627 (Smart and Talk N' Text) INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY SALES: 818-2101 CORPORATE SALES: 848 [illegible] 848-6456 848-6451 E-MAIL: inquiry@medicardphils.com feedback@medicardphils.com WEBSITE: [illegible]

BED HEAD
TIGI
CHOCOLATE HEAD

Hollywood head-turners

THE REVOLUTIONARY Tigi Bed Head Stick, actress Meg Ryan's secret behind her spiky-edged finished-unfinished look, is no longer a secret.

Since celebrity hairstylist Anthony Mascolo launched this one product in the late 1980s, he has developed a variety of hair miracle workers. And in addition to the Head Stick, the Tigi Bed Head line have become the hottest hair care, treatment and styling range in Hollywood and the bigger market today.

Singing sensation Anastacia absolutely loves the Control Freak Shampoo, Conditioner and Serum to tame her wild side; and finishes the job with Power Trip, a molding hair gel that adds dimension and volume.

Among the shampoos and conditioners, popular favorites include the Dumb Blonde used by Britney Spears and Tyra Banks because it is best for after highlights, damaged or chemically treated hair.

Self Absorbed, a mega vitamin formulation to preserve shine and volume, is preferred by Maroon 5. Moisture Maniac, a rich and creamy lathering infused with a citrusy fresh smell is. used by American Pie star Shannon Elizabeth and the legendary Lenny Kravitz.

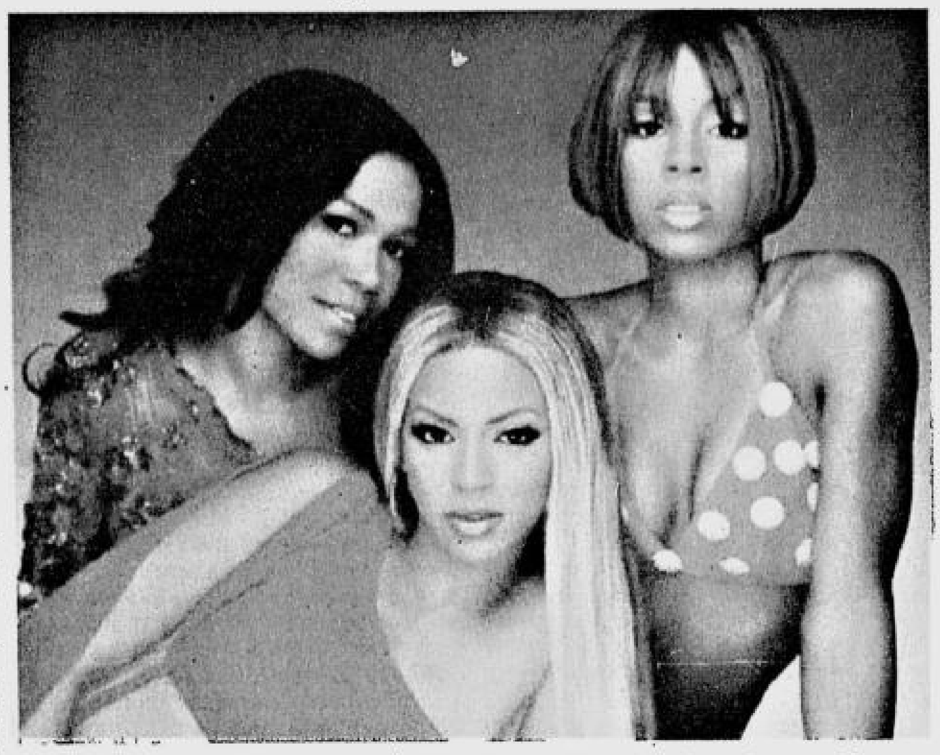
Tigi Bed Head also has a range of hair treatments such as the Treat Me Right, a peppermint hair mask that provides the hair with a five-minute spa treatment that stimulates and conditions the hair for a full and shiny look; Ego Boost, a split-end mender and leave-in conditioner that protects dry and damaged hair from environmental elements while giving that fruity and berry fragrance.

The stars shine brighter with Tigi Bed Head's impressive array of shine enhancers and smootheners. Natalie Portman's choice? Girl Toys, a lightweight shine serum that smoothens dry ends. Other popular choices are Kelly Ripa's personal fave Shine Junkie, a non-greasy super-shine formulation that camouflages split ends.

Polish the 'do with a Bed Head line deemed must-haves by Ewan McGregor, Liza Minelli, Tori Spelling, Sharon Stone, Robbie Williams, Justin Timberlake, Enrique Iglesias—Bed Head Stick for texture and hold, the Mohawk Gel for ultra spiking hold, Maxxed Out for maximum strength, the thermal blow dry miracle lotion Superstar and the Manipulator which is used to spike.

The Tigi Bed Head line offers shampoos, conditioners, treatments, shine enhancers and smootheners, gel and waxes, hairsprays, and a wide variety of styling aids.

Tigi Bed Head is exclusively distributed by Hairministry Inc. and available in all leading salons.


BEYONCE Knowles' locks are courtesy of Headrush, a shine adrenaline enhancer with a superfine mist that provides for soft, shiny and silky hair for any length or texture.

BED HEAD
TIGI
SHINE JUNKIE
In A Can
Outshine Everyone!
Eblouissez votre monde!!
hará brillar a todo el
Net wt. 2 oz. 50 ml. 57 g

BED HEAD
TIGI
AFTER-PARTY

PARTY girl Paris Hilton uses After Party, a hair silkifier that tames funky flyaways.

OSCAR winner Charlize Theron swears by the Tigi Bed Head Rubber Rage, a citrusy hair wax for a shiny and textured finish.

BED HEAD
TIGI
RUBBER RAGE
Only for Cool People

SO WHAT COKE ARE YOU, REALLY?

Did you know that it's easy to tell someone's character by the things he or she likes? Take the quiz below and be surprised how much your taste tells a lot about who you are and, most of all, what Coke will best refresh you.

What would you wear on a big date?
A. A classy, all-black ensemble from top to toe
B. Whatever's loose and comfortable
C. Preppy silhouette that's dominantly neutrals
D. Body-hugging that will show your assets

Who are the artists on your CD rack?
A. Maroon 5, Alicia Keys
B. Hoobastank, Incubus
C. Dashboard Confessional
D. Ministry of Sound, Ibiza

What do you read?
A. Newspaper and novels
B. Independent titles
C. Comics and sci-fi
D. Magazines and self-help books

How do you like your steak?
A. Well-done
B. Rare
C. Medium-rare
D. I don't eat steak

What is your dream cell phone?
A. The less complicated, the better
B. Something that no one else has
C. With lots of games and software to operate
D. Streamlined, with lots of stylish covers

What's you dream car?
A. Anything that has four wheels and drive
B. SUV
C. Beetle
D. Porsche

How will you pose in your yearbook photo?
A. Something that mommy would hang on the wall
B. Wacky and crazy, with tongue sticking out
C. You really don't care
D. Glamorous, almost like a magazine photo shoot

Now, the fun part. Below is an assessment of your personality profile. Find out which one you are based on your answers above. As a bonus, we've also written down which Coca-Cola best describes and suits you. After all, there's nothing like grabbing a Coke that'll refresh you the way you want it to.

Mostly A's
You're a classic. Everyone finds it easy to talk to you, and you get along well with almost everybody You find it easy to get new friends, even in the most unlikely places.

So to speak, you're like the Regular Coke. The one that everyone has always loved.

Mostly B's
You're on the wild side. You like to explore new places, and you love the outdoors. You find satisfaction in experimenting, and is happy knowing that there's always something different to do.

If you were a Coke, you'd be Cherry Coke. There's always a cherry wild side in you!

Mostly C's
You've got a lot going for you coz you've got it just right. You always see the fun side of things. Easy-going and humorous, surely no party will be the same without you.

You're definitely a Vanilla Coke—you have just the right touch of vanilla.

Mostly D's
You're ultra sophisticated. You always strive to improve yourself. You go to the gym, eat healthy food, because you know they're good for you. You're a New Age phenomenon!

Coke Light best suits you. It's the same Coke but with less than 1 calorie, it's good for you.

No

sweet

talk.

The drinks pictured above are for the health-conscious.

Low calorie, and like this ad, completely sugar free.

"Coca-Cola light", "Royal", "Sprite", and the Dynamic Ribbon device are trademarks of The Coca-Cola Company © 2004 The Coca-Cola Company